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Daily Report
Central Eurasia

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Chernomyrdin on Readiness To Join Council of Europe

LD1209171394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1630 GMT 12 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow September 12 TASS—Russia will join the Council of Europe already in May 1995, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said on Monday during a working meeting with a delegation from the Council of Europe, led by the council's secretary General Daniel Tarschys.

Tarschys in turn stated that, to become a member of the Council of Europe, Russia must bring its legislation in conformity with that of Europe, especially in the area of human rights.

The secretary general told reporters that a group of European law experts is currently examining Russian law articles which require changes in order membership of the Council of Europe to be granted to Russia.

Chernomyrdin called the attention of Tarschys to human rights problems in the Baltic states.

Justice Minister Meets CE Delegation

LD1209145094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1033 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Russia's Justice Minister Yuriy Kalmykov believes that Russia's current legislation is in line with the requirements of Council of Europe [CE] experts.

He met with a CE delegation on Monday to discuss the procedure for bringing about Russia's membership in the Council of Europe.

Kalmykov said in an interview that the current phase of talks on the conditions for Russia's admission to the Council of Europe was the final one. He said that CE experts had no objections against Russia's Constitution adopted in December 1993, the law on the Constitutional Court, the constitutional law on the commissioner for human rights, or on drafts of Russia's new civil, criminal and procedural codes.

At the same time Kalmykov admitted that the observance of human rights in penitentiaries was still a weak point. He said that re- subordinating the correctional establishments to Russia's Justice Ministry would help change the situation for the better. In most civilized countries penitentiaries are controlled by civil agencies.

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe Daniel Tarschys said at a meeting with Kalmykov that he hoped Russia would become a member of the Council of Europe and joint efforts would achieve its integration. However, he pointed to a number of areas where the human rights situation was not in line with Council of Europe requirements, such as residence permits, which hinders peoples' right to move freely in their own country.

Kalmykov recalled that Russia had the 1993 law on the Freedom of Travel, which furnished a basis for cancelling the institution of residence permits. The problem must be studied together with the leaders of Moscow and St. Petersburg, Kalmykov said.

Talks Held on Membership

LD1209200194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1605 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Talks were held in Moscow Monday between Federation Council Speaker Vladimir Shumeyko, General Secretary of the Council of Europe Daniel Tarschys and Chairman of the Cabinet of Minister of the Council of Europe, Bulgarian Foreign Minister Stanislav Daskalov. They discussed possible Russian entry into the Council of Europe.

Tarschys said after the meeting that cooperation between Russia and the Council of Europe had been made easier by the adoption of the constitution, the parliamentary elections and the withdrawal of Russian troops from Germany and the Baltic States.

Tarschys added that troop withdrawal was a very important factor in any future Russian membership of the Council of Europe. He called Russian membership "desirable and possible." State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin said after meeting Tarschys and Daskalov that Russia had nearly completed everything needed to be accepted as a member of the Council of Europe.

Daskalov praised the results of the meeting and said the "the Council of Europe needs Russia as much as Russia needs the Council of Europe." Tarschys said he was sure that Russia would become a member of the Council of Europe as early as the first half of next year.

Russian Membership Possible in 1995

LD1309082994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0712 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Moscow September 13 TASS—Russia may become a fully- fledged member of the Council of Europe already in the first half of 1995, it is believed by Stanislav Daskalov of Bulgaria, now chairing the council's ministerial committee.

After Russia joins the Council of Europe, Russian citizens will have the right to apply to the international court in order to defend their civil rights. The Russian constitution includes an article, which regulates such applications and puts the norms of international law above those of the Russian legislation.

Meeting leaders of the Russian Justice Ministry on Monday, the delegation of the Council of Europe, currently visiting Moscow, noted that after joining the council Russia will have to recognise the case law on its territory. Today, this law is applicable only to verdicts of the Supreme Court.

Abortion Ban Opposed at UN Population Conference

LD1309101294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0952 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Rafael Bikbayev]

[Text] Cairo September 13 TASS—"Russia is categorically against a ban on abortions", Yekaterina Lakhova, leader of the "Women of Russia" parliamentary faction and a member of the Russian delegation at the World Conference on Population and Development, told TASS on Tuesday commenting on the most debated issue at the forum.

Russia has an experience of banning abortions, but it yielded little result, she recalled. "We had the ban in the 50s, but to ban abortions does not mean to decrease their number. Abortion is a forced measure and we have to create such conditions in Russia which do not exist now", she said evidently referring to the fact that most Russian women are not used to contraceptives which were in a big shortage in Soviet years.

"Unfortunately, at present abortions are a means of birth control", Lakhova said.

The "programme of activities" discussed by the Cairo conference suits Russia. "In general we agree with all its provisions and believe it necessary to draft a similar national programme for our country", she stressed, but added that Russia is a multinational state and it is important to take into account the cultural and ethnic traditions of the peoples living there.

Lakhova recalled that the decisions of the Cairo conference are only recommendations and expressed confusion over the fact that the proposal to work out an international convention on population was not supported.

"We proposed, but were not supported, to request the United Nations to draft an international convention on population. It would be clear in this case which country ratifies it or not while the governments would be responsible for its implementation", Lakhova said.

Water Ecology, Technology Forum Held in Moscow

MM1309100694 Moscow TRUD in Russian 10 Sep 94 p 2

[Vladimir Basmanov: "Where Would We Be Without Water?"]

[Text] The second international "Water: Ecology and Technology" congress ended in Moscow yesterday.

Specialists have recently been sounding the alarm increasingly frequently: Rivers, lakes, ponds, and other reservoirs are becoming increasingly polluted. The terrible concept of "acid rain" no longer surprises anyone. The elaboration of new water purification technologies and systems for transporting and storing water has become a necessity.

The "Water: Ecology and Technology" congress was devoted to this range of problems. Dozens of organizations sponsored it, including the municipal enterprise "Berliner Vasser Betriebe" (Germany), "Vodokanal Sankt-Peterburga," and the "Gidromashservis" joint-stock company.... Mankind's economic activity is leading to the further pollution of water supplies, particularly open ones, it was noted at the congress. The need to toughen up control over the purification of waste water and the quality of drinking water was emphasized. To this end, it is necessary to make the broadest use of sources of underground fresh water in economic and drinking water supplies. Incidentally, at an exhibition of equipment for extracting water from artesian wells, which is going on in parallel with the congress, the technologies of our own "Gidromashservis" were represented extensively. This joint-stock company offers equipment for major industrial enterprises, for the municipal housing sector, and also for small private farms.

"Our tasks are to develop supplies of pumping equipment, control stations, and pipelines as extensively as possible," Artem Molchanov, general director of "Gidromashservis," said. "The problems which the country is coming up against in its water management activity are clear even to a nonspecialist. The situation has particularly deteriorated following the collapse of the USSR, as a result of which a lot of enterprises which produce pumps and other equipment ended up outside Russia. Therefore we are now establishing cooperation with the Chisinau plant for deep-well pumps, for instance, and we are helping them to organize the production of high-technology items, and are introducing state-of-the-art materials and advanced technologies."

Paper Reviews CIS Prime Ministers' Meeting

MM1209132994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Sep 94 First Edition pp 1-2

[Report by Aleksandr Krasulin under the "Day's Topic" rubric: "Commonwealth 'Roundtable.' A Routine Session of the CIS Heads of Government Council Has Been Held in Moscow"]

[Text] The meeting was opened by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. He conveyed the good wishes of Russian President B.N. Yeltsin to all the session participants for fruitful work and good results in the matter of strengthening the Economic Union.

As Viktor Chernomyrdin pointed out, during the year which has elapsed since the Treaty of Economic Union was signed considerable progress has been made in creating its legal base, but quite a lot still has to be done in this area. He singled out the questions of the Payment Union and the creation of the Interstate Economic Committee [IEC] as the main questions. The premier pointed out that the EEC, in its present form, took a whole 35 years to form. "We do not have this much time, and so the pace must be different, and the practical aspect must always be present in our activity when resolving even theoretical questions." He congratulated Tajikistan's delegation on the national holiday—Independence Day.

The agenda for yesterday's session of the CIS heads of government was quite extensive and could be divided up conventionally into four blocks of questions. They were the preparations for the upcoming celebration of the 50th anniversary of victory in the Great Patriotic War; the formation of the Economic Union in pursuance of the Treaty of Economic Union, which was signed last September; the Agreement on the Creation of the IEC of the Economic Union; and questions concerning earlier adopted decisions.

The meeting began by discussing measures to prepare for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of victory in the Great Patriotic War. Yevgeniy Gorelik, press secretary of the CIS Executive Secretariat, reported in conversation that the previous day the Coordinating Consultative Committee had adopted a decision to remove from the agenda a discussion of the interstate program to perpetuate the memory of servicemen who fell in the war and of victims of fascism. The program provides for many interesting measures, but owing to shortage of time it was decided to postpone its consideration. In addition, it is still in need of additional work.

The forum participants adopted a decision to complete work on the book of remembrance for the servicemen who fell in the war, to publish a brief biographic anthology of recipients of the three classes of the Order of Glory, and to present these anthologies free of charge to holders who are still alive and also free of charge to the families of those who have died.

The most important document approved at the meeting was undoubtedly the Agreement on the Creation of the IEC of the Economic Union. For the first time in the Commonwealth's history an institution has been created which will have control-administrative and executive functions. It is essentially becoming the firstling of a supranational structure, and on certain problems it will adopt decisions which the CIS members are obliged to carry out. Primarily with regard to so-called transnational problems: unified oil pipelines, energy supply systems, railroad network, communications, etc. But the biggest debate at the session of the Coordinating Consultative Committee was precisely over this point.

In conversation with journalists before the start of the meeting Aleksandr Shokhin, Russian vice premier and minister of economics, emphasized the special significance of the IEC, which "will exercise regulating functions in the volume delegated to it by this committee's member states, i.e. there will also be a need for a special agreement on the specific areas of the Economic Union's activity, which will particularly stipulate the mechanism for delegating powers to the IEC." The vice premier particularly emphasized that "misgivings about the supranational nature of this organ, which would suddenly appear without the consent of the CIS members, are groundless." He specified that it is hard to speak now of the IEC's regulatory functions, since they are not recorded in previously signed documents within the CIS framework. The vice premier explained that it is a question of the fact that, if the partners in the Commonwealth are prepared to delegate regulatory and administrative powers to the IEC, then it is necessary, "starting tomorrow, to think about which powers will be delegated to the IEC." In A. Shokhin's opinion, it would be possible to include in the IEC such structures, which already exist within the CIS framework, as the secretariats of the permanently functioning sectoral organs of the Councils of Ministers for particular types of activity, as well as the CIS Statistical Committee. "This is not a return to the IEC which existed in 1991 and which was a kind of variety of a union government. In this case it is a question, rather, of the EU Commission," Shokhin pointed out. He disagreed with statements that Turkmenistan is categorically opposed to forming the IEC. Shokhin explained that during the debate on the creation of this organ the question was raised of whether a country may not participate at all in a vote at an IEC forum and whether, in this case, the decisions of this committee will have to be carried out. "We believe," he said, "that if certain countries think that they might be harmed by IEC decisions, then they should be in no hurry to join the committee and may join it as observers."

Shokhin's so clear and distinct position does not, however, meet with full understanding in all the CIS countries, which are still frightened by the shadow of the center's former diktat. In addition to Turkmenistan's position, as I learned from sources close to the Azerbaijani delegation, Azerbaijan's parliament has not authorized

Suret Guseynov, its prime minister, to sign the agreement on the IEC and the Payment Union. Ukraine also dissented on the decisionmaking procedure in the IEC.

For the Economic Union to exist, it is necessary to create a number of other unions. As Yevgeniy Gorelik pointed out in conversation with me, the treaty must be backed up by approximately 20 agreements which develop this document and fill it with specific content. For example, the Customs Union, determining a unified customs policy. Next comes the Payment Union, an agreement on which was adopted by the session participants. It is an important document that has been worked out. It is based on the principle of acknowledgment of the national currency and of the leading role of the banks of sovereign states as emission centers and organs of money-credit and currency regulation on the territory of each of the sides. In other words, provision is made for each state to be autonomous in implementing an internal monetary policy with the simultaneous adoption of tough obligations by the member states in relations among themselves.

These obligations include mutual recognition of national currencies as the currency of contracts relating to trade and nontrade operations; its free exchange at market currency rates on the internal currency market; state underwriting of convertibility [konvertatsiya] in respect of socially significant payments; the transfer to commercial banks of the right to make transactions and grant credits, bypassing central banks' unified correspondent accounts; and also the granting to nonresidents of opportunities to settle accounts in the national currency of the host country. In practice this means that the member countries must possess their own currency, recognize the national currencies of other members, ensure a unified regime for establishing currency rates on the basis of supply and demand for currencies on internal currency markets, maintain the rate for their own national currency within limits agreed by the sides by means of currency reserves, admit nonresident banks to the internal market to buy and sell the local currency, and liberalize the regimes for exchanging cash and cashless money of other states for the national currency. "Its birth was long and difficult because the currencies in each state are so soft that it is a highly complex matter to bring them to any convertibility at all," Yevgeniy Gorelik said. "But some methods which have been discussed already exist."

Although the idea of creating a Euro-union [as published], which was advanced by Nursultan Nazarbayev, was not included on the meeting's agenda, it was being discussed actively in the lobby of the forum. Many incline to the view that it is too soon to speak about this. It is necessary to instill order in the structure that already exists. Within the framework of the Commonwealth both the Charter and other documents make it possible to do this. It is simply necessary to fulfill the decisions that are adopted.

Kiev Ministers Respond

LD1009170794 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] The Council of Government Leaders of the 12 CIS member countries took place in Moscow on 9 September with the aim of coordinating and signing (?a package of more than 20) documents, which will determine further economic cooperation, and the integrational development of the Commonwealth countries. Among the issues discussed were the Interstate Economic Committee, mutual convertibility of currencies of the Commonwealth's countries, an agreement on setting up a payments union of CIS countries, financing an economic court, the Mir Interstate Television and Radio Company, and also a number of other issues concerning cooperation in celebrating the 50th anniversary of victory in the Great Patriotic War. A separate point was the signing of a memorandum by the Council of Government Leaders entitled: The basic directions of and prospects for the integrational development of the Commonwealth embracing the 1994-1995 period.

On the eve of this meeting, on 7 September, the CIS Coordination and Consultative Committee examined these issues and made observations and proposals from the delegations of various states.

During the working sessions of the Ukrainian delegation doubts arose on the expedience of signing the draft agreement on setting up a payments union of CIS countries, and also with regard to financing an economic court and the Mir Television and Radio Company. These and other documents were signed by the Ukrainian side.

Ukraine's Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol said in an interview with Ukrainian journalists before departing for Kiev that he did not put his signature to the agreement on setting up a payments union because it needs further work done on it. Thus, for example, one of the conditions is that the member countries of the payments union have a single market and official exchange rate of local currencies in relation to foreign currencies, and also that they have a stabilization fund.

In the opinion of Ukraine's prime minister, the creation of the Interstate Economic Committee, which may be located in Moscow, means for Ukraine an entrance to the Russian market. But, he noted, Ukraine will enter the Interstate Economic Committee only when it delegates some of its economic powers to it.

According to Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister Ihor Mityukov, the Ukrainian side fully supported the proposed draft agreement on mutual convertibility of foreign currencies and on holding a series of multilateral negotiations on this issue. He also pointed out that Ukraine would have 14 percent of votes at the Interstate Economic Committee, at a time when Russia would have 50 percent. These quotas were determined according to the volumes of the gross national product, however, the decision on this ratio, according to Ihor Mityukov, was taken with a reservation that it would be approved by 1 January 1996. There will be altogether four systems of voting to adopt decisions at the Interstate Economic Committee. The sides agreed that the most important issues would be adopted by 80 percent of votes.

As Ukraine's Deputy Economy Minister Leonid Minin said, there should be no apprehensions that the Interstate Economic Committee would become a supranational body, like the former DerzhPlan [State Planning Committee]. Everything depends on the powers to be vested in the committee by each of the countries, and it will act within the framework of these powers.

Army General Ivan Bizhan, deputy defense minister of Ukraine, said that during the consideration of the regulations of the Commission for Military and Economic Cooperation of the Commonwealth countries, the Ukrainian side emphasized that it did not accept the formulation on the external borders of the CIS, and believed that the borders of each country are its own borders and each country should protect them independently. At the same time, Ivan Bizhan spoke out for deepening military and technical integration and did not rule out the possibility of Ukraine selling arms to CIS countries.

In the opinion of Ivan Korotchenya, the executive secretary of the CIS, analyzing the state of economy and progress of economic reforms in the CIS states, preparing proposals on carrying out coordinated economic and social policy, bringing economic legislations of CIS countries closer to one another, and harmonizing them should be the most important functions of the Interstate Economic Committee.

According to him, the importance of a consistent formation of an effective integration structure of the CIS for the consolidation and development of the CIS is pointed out in the signed memorandum. A stage-by-stage formation of a common economic space of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the basis of market relations must become a priority.

Machine Building Industry Ministers Meet in Chisinau

AU1309085094 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1955 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Chisinau, ROMPRES, 9/9/1994—Today, the reunion of the CIS ministers of machine building industry finished in Chisinau. Delegations from Hungary and Cuba participated as observers. Specialists from Bulgaria, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Czech Republic and the Baltic states were also invited. The reunion signed six documents on the realization of inter-ministerial agreements for 1994 and elaboration of cooperation conventions for 1995, creation of the International Bank for the Development of the Machine Building Industry, creation of translational corporations and companies, as well as agreements on mutual investments. Gheorghe Efrons, vice minister of industry, told BASAPRESS that the discussed problems are very important for Moldova. He pointed out that the protocol on creating the International Bank for the Development of the Machine Building Industry was signed by Russia, Georgia and Moldova. The share of each party in the capital of the bank represents 500 billion Russian rubles. Efrons also pointed out that "the share of investments made by the CIS states in Moldova will depend on Moldova's investments in other states." As to the single informational system and International Marketing Center headquartered in Minsk, no agreement was reached.

Catalog of CIS 'Business Elite' Published

MM1309092194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Sep 94 First Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "In the Chief Roles. Catalog Introducing the Business Elite Published"]

[Text] Despite forecasts by skeptics and really not the most reassuring results in economic life, the CIS is alive.

It cannot be otherwise. Because it is united by thousands of invisible economic ties which sprouted over decades of joint economic management and which, despite everything, are, therefore, viable.

The best illustration of this is provided by the recently published first edition of the magnificent presentation catalog "Business Elite. Commonwealth of Independent States." It will familiarize the general reader with some of the entrepreneurial and financial structures which today play an appreciable role in the economies of our states.

The chief aim of the publisher—the "ASMO-press" International Journalists Corporation—is to assist the process of rapprochement among the states of the Commonwealth.

Among the participants in the catalogue you will find ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 13 Sep

LD1309065994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0647 GMT 13 Sep 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow September 13 TASS—The entire Moscow-based press highlights the situation on the Crimean peninsula. Headlines proclaim: "The Crimea: A Political Storm and the Mellow Season" (IZVESTIYA), "Will the Crimea Explode?" (KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA) and "The Crimean President and Parliament Have Launched a War of Extermiation. The Crimean People Are Not in a Hurry To Man Barricades" (KRASNAYA ZVEZDA).

"Masks Have Been Discarded. Meshkov Stakes His All", writes PRAVDA. "It Is Currently Hot in the Crimea", points out TRUD. "Yuriy Meshkov Dissolves the Crimean Parliament and Councils at all Levels", reports NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. "Is it That Everything Is Screened by Smoke and Nothing Is Seen in the Crimea?" asks RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA.

Irrespective of whether articles convey anxiety, bewilderment or fiendish delight, all their meaning, in the final analysis, comes to what all this may end with.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA on the Crimean situation:

"Whom of the two main characters involved in the conflict—President Yuriy Meshkov or speaker Sergey Tsekov—will be sent by the people and in what direction is not clear so far.

"Just as unclear is whether there will be an assault on the parliament building in the Crimea, a full-scale civil war or the president and the speaker will succeed in coming to terms on rights to land, freedom to act and a place under the sun".

The newspaper supplements the main article about the Crimean conflict with an item headlined "Leonid Kuchma Is Worried", reporting the Ukrainian president's reaction and carrying an article about the actions of mafia-style outfits on the peninsula, against whom meshkov came out when giving reasons for his decision to suspend the parliament activities.

TRUD on the Chechnya situation:

"The opposition is now busy growing 'muscles', preparing for decisive battles. Only a couple of weeks ago, the military circles in Groznyy asserted that the 'bandit forces' (as the oppositionists are referred to by Dzhokhar Dudayev's entourage) have available not more that 50 armoured vehicles, most of which were deployed in Nadterechnyy (above-Terek) district.

"Recently Dudayev stated that the bandits already had 140 armoured personnel carriers and tanks as well as anti-aircraft mounts, howitzers, helicopters and aircraft."

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI gives details of the planned construction of a 78-kiliometer railway in circumvention of Chechnya, for the Chechen section of the North Caucasian railway has become the target of massive crime—about 400 attacks on trains were made there in 1993 alone.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI carries and interview with Sergey Filatov, chief of the Russian president staff, who spoke of new people who will come to state power and administration bodies.

These must be, first of all, people who will devote themselves to the highly lofty cause—honestly to serve the formation and development of a renewed, democratic and free Russia, Filatov said. He gave a noteworthy fact: personnel in top echelons of the executive power has be renewed by almost two-thirds over the past two years.

TRUD conveys the opinion of Vyacheslav Grechnev and Felix Yemelin, leaders of the newly-founded majority party, about the forthcoming presidential and parliamentary elections.

Grechnev and Yemelin suggest holding a referendum on two questions: the attitude of the people of Russia to the idea of extending the powers of the present Federal Assembly and the president until 1998, and Russian people's attitude to the idea of turning the country into a constitutional monarchy and restoring of the forcibly and unlawfully interrupted rule of the Romanov dynasty.

IZVESTIYA writes that the official purpose of the tour of the country by Yegor Gaydar, leader of Russia's Democratic Choice Party, was to create regional branches of the party while the unofficial and not particularly concealed one was to launch the party's elections campaign.

Gaydar and his team managed to accomplish both tasks quite successfully. In the event of success, he will be in for the portfolio of prime minister. If there will be a setback, then he will have the position of leader of the largest opposition parliamentary group.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA runs a decree issued by Russian President Boris Yeltsin about introducing changes to the status of Russia's Bolshoy theatre. The status was confirmed on September 19, 1992.

The theatre may now independently shape an artistic troupe on a contract basis, including selection of performers through competition with the conclusion of contracts.

Under the decree, the theatre's general director now has the right personally to appoint deputy general directors and artistic directors of the theatre collectives on a competitive basis.

Espy Pushes Farmers to 'Side of the Road'

MM1209154594 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 10 Sep 94 p 1

[Article by Marat Glinka: "Collision on Kaluga Highway"]

[Text] Rarely a day goes by without the mass disinformation media trotting out to television viewers, radio listeners, and readers scared by unrestrained bread price increases the notion that, quote, the peasant is to blame for your misfortunes. It is he, who has grown fat on his free grain crops and giveaway milk and meat, who is continually demanding increases in purchase prices for agricultural products. So a very straightforward conclusion is drawn: It is better to buy abroad—it will be cheaper.

Officially Mike Espy has come here to continue cooperation in creating market infrastructures and informational, banking, and credit and insurance systems in the country. The Russian side was to have raised at the talks the question of using advanced U.S. technologies concerning the processing of agricultural products, agricultural techniques for cultivating protein and oilseed crops, and the organization of the production of agricultural equipment at military-industrial complexes that have been subject to conversion. But literally at the last moment another subject appeared on the program which became virtually the main subject—purchases of U.S. grain.

By all accounts this year's U.S. grain harvest will be close to a record one. It is extremely important for foreign commercial representatives to push it onto the Russian grain market. We are talking about millions of tonnes of grain, including 1 million tonnes of barley. So the powerful pro-U.S. lobby in the mass media has started a concentrated attack on the Russian Federation Government. Not without success, it seems: According to press reports Viktor Khlystun has already assured his U.S. colleague that Russia is importing a total of 5-7 million tonnes of grain this year.

At one time the USSR used to purchase between one-fourth and one-fifth of the grain produced in the United States. In 1992 purchases of it by the Russian Federation totaled 25.5 million tonnes, last year 11.1 million tonnes were imported, and in the first seven months of this year 1.8 million tonnes have been imported. The two countries' agriculture ministers have now agreed that Russia will purchase another 400,000 tonnes of grain, which will cost us $86 million. Thus the credit of $700 million, which was allocated by the United States in April last year and which has gone entirely on supporting U.S. farmers, is being used up. But this is not enough for the United States. This country's grain producers intend to get their government to open a new line of credit for Russia to purchase U.S. agricultural products. Mr. Espy stated that he would try to ascertain additional information about our import requirements and secure grain deliveries to the Russian grain market. So there you have it.

It is said that this grain will cost Russians less than their own. But simple calculations show that this is not so. Every tonne of grain already delivered from over there this year has cost $170 or over 360,000 rubles [R], whereas our peasants are asking R200,000-220,000 a tonne for the produce created by their sweat and blood, while the actual price of a tonne of grain purchased in the first half-year was R72,000. But this is not quite the point. Because the loans allocated by the U.S. Government to Russia are not getting here. All of them down to the last cent are falling into the lap of farms over there.

Another argument in favor of importing grain is that it will arrive at Far East ports, to which "it is extremely unprofitable for us to transport it across the whole country, from the south." Therefore, Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin said, we will buy grain from across the ocean. Wait a minute, I have heard this somewhere before. Was it not first Nikita Sergeyevich [Khrushchev], then Leonid Ilich [Brezhnev], and finally Mikhail Sergeyevich [Gorbachev] who explained the need for grain imports? But at the time they at least had an excuse: The grain being produced in the country was insufficient for the development of domestic livestock raising and poultry raising. But now, when grain from last year's harvest is still lying around at depots and in elevators, should we be helping U.S. farmers by ruining our own?

...When holding snap talks in Moscow Mike Espy went to Kaluga, where a price information system is already being created with U.S. help to ensure, it was announced, "a civilized wholesale food market." The foreign controller missed the deadline—his vehicle collided with a passenger bus. Fortunately there were no casualties. But this was not the only reason the transoceanic power's agriculture minister was calm and cheerful. He had just managed to push the bus of the Russian agrarian economy, which is rapidly going downhill, a bit at the side of the road.

Grachev on Totsk Exercise, Joining NATO

MM1309095394 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Valeriy Vedernikov: "Totsk Range Could Become Training Center for Peacemaking Forces"]

[Text] Orenburg—The last U.S. soldier left the Totsk Range 10 September. The Peacemaker-94 Russian-U.S. command and staff exercises were over. After attending the games, which were conducted mainly on maps and computers, Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation minister of defense, gave them a "good" rating. He met with personnel and with Russian and U.S. journalists and said, in particular:

"It strikes me as profoundly symbolic that the first Russian-U.S. command and staff exercise for peacemaking forces, as a vivid example of the new nature of the relations between our two countries and our armies, is taking place on the very site where the foundations of nuclear confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union were essentially laid 40 years ago...."

The minister of defense also emphasized that B.N. Yeltsin, president of Russia and supreme commander in chief, regards the problem of peacemaking activity as one of the priorities in our state's military and foreign policy.

The defense minister rejected the assumptions of certain State Duma deputies and journalists that Russia will join the North Atlantic bloc in the near future. This will not happen, he said, for a switch to [perekhod v] NATO would mean a change in our military doctrine.

With regard to the protests against the exercises the minister remarked:

"There are people both here and in America who see each other as enemies."

I do not believe that the local population will be particularly enthusiastic about the fact that General Keller, chief of the U.S. ground forces in Europe, did not rule out the possibility of turning the Totsk Range into a training center for the peacemaking forces of European countries. Incidentally, members of the oblast legislative assembly voted against the present exercises by an overwhelming majority, in addition to patriots and Anpilov's frenzied followers.

There is more food for thought. One of the U.S. officers speaks Russian tolerably well, and on the eve of the exercises he was reading [Pushkin's story] "The Captain's Daughter" in the original, in which, as is known, the action unfolds in the Orenburg steppes. This is no cause for surprise—it is part of the duties of U.S. professional soldiers to study the language and the national character. U.S. soldier Alexander Minko said that he was sad to leave. Evidently he will not have to be sad for long. Next year it is planned to hold analogous exercises in the United States.

Thus, one more page has been turned in the history of the Totsk Range, which was founded in 1904 by decision of the Russian Imperial General Staff.

Moscow Wants New Conventional Forces Limits in Europe

LD1209162894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1500 GMT 12 Sep 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: reports by our diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[Text] Moscow believes that the treaty on limitation of conventional arms must be adapted to the new situation in Europe, a high-ranking official of the Russian Foreign Ministry told Interfax before the regular session of the consultative group on the treaty on limitation of conventional arms in Europe opening in Vienna on September 13.

"When we speak about the necessity for adapting the treaty to the new situation we primarily mean the issues of flank quotas," he added. The diplomat said that in accordance with the treaty Russia can have a certain quantity of conventional arms in the northern and southern flank regions, including the Leningrad and North Caucasian military districts and Russian military bases in Caucuses, Crimea and Moldova (not more than 700 tanks, 580 armored vehicles and 1280 artillery systems). The Russian Defense Ministry said it believes that Russia must have more arms on the flanks taking into consideration its real needs, the diplomat added.

The diplomat made it clear that he means regular troops. "There are also arms in storages but this is other level," he added. He said that the treaty limits both conventional arms which regular military formations have and arms in storages, meaning arms not ready for fighting.

The diplomat said that Moscow considers it necessary to raise the existing flank level for regular troops by 400 tanks, 2420 armored vehicles and 820 artillery systems. He added that these numbers had been recently made known by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and that the West had known about them for a long time. He said Russia had raised this problem at the meeting of the consultative group last September when Russia had officially announced its intention to review the flank quotas. In February of 1994 Russia put forward its concrete demands. The diplomat added that Russia still considers this issue as the priority and will defend its position at the coming meeting of the consultative group.

Moscow proposed various ways for settling the problem going as far as proposing to suspend some provisions of the treaty on these quotas. However, the West negatively reacted to all initiatives of Russia.

The diplomat said that the West is trying to keep Russia within the limits of the existing quotas and to delay consideration of the issue of reviewing or changing the treaty before the quotas expire in November of 1995. He said the West believes that by this time the situation will become more or less stable and some changes will be introduced then.

Russia proceeds from the fact that the treaty was concluded while the USSR existed and NATO and the Warsaw Pact were confronting each other, the diplomat said. He added that after the collapse of the USSR the flank quotas had become outdated.

The diplomat went on to say that earlier the flank region included several republics of the USSR. In 1992 the Tashkent agreement divided the quota for the ex-USSR among its legal successors in Europe - Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova and the Caucasian republics.

Russia confirms that it does not refuse from its obligations on reducing arms, the diplomat stressed. He said that Russia would like to review only the flank quotas which are not balanced and are of discriminatory character for Russia.

As the first move Russia proposed to suspend the provisions of the treaty concerning the flanks. Then Russia wants to transform the North Caucasian district from the flank into the rear one. Russia also proposed to bring beyond the limits of the flank limitations arms and military equipment of the coastal defense and marines which Russia included into the register after the treaty was signed as a unilateral move of good will. Russia also proposed to bring some arms from storages into regular units in order to increase the quantity of arms which its regular troops can have on the flanks.

The diplomat said the West explains its unwillingness to satisfy Russia's demands by the fear that the amendments on the flank quotas will be followed by other amendments which will wreck the treaty which lost its former bloc basis.

The true reason is the position of Turkey which does not want Russia to have more arms on the southern flank, the diplomat said. He added that Norway and NATO consider Russia's demands concerning the northern flank as exaggerated.

The diplomat stressed that Spain and Portugal openly say that this issue does not concern them. However, when they must state their official position the NATO solidarity works, he added.

The diplomat said that Russia will not bring any new initiatives to the present meeting of the consultative group. He said Russia expects to receive some compromising response from the West. He added that the West does not put forward any productive proposals but is just "swallowing what we propose." The West is only ready to listen to us and discuss the subject within the scope of the consultative group, the diplomat said.

Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, for his part, told Interfax on Sunday that if Russia is met halfway in terms of flank restriction reviewal, we shall be prepared to cut considerably the number of the personnel, technology and armaments in the Kaliningrad Region.

He said that a "mighty contingent" which several times surpasses the number needed for ensuring security in the region, is deployed in the region. He said that Russia is prepared to redeploy part of the contingent to other regions of the country. The Minister believes that such redeployment of troops should be held with due account of Russia's interests.

Foreign Ministry Refuses Comment on Crimea

MM1209154994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Sep 94 First Edition p 2

[Report by Boris Vinogradov: "Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Prefers Not To Comment on Situation in Crimea"]

[Text] Events in Crimea are taking on an acute and intriguing nature. The conflict between the presidential and legislative powers in Simferopol, for all its air of being "localized," is capable of drawing in more significant forces by moving beyond the confines of the peninsula. Obviously, it is difficult even for experts to forecast the situation, but one way or another the issue of Russia's attitude toward the problem in question, as a country which is unlikely to be able to maintain the position of detached observer, rises to the surface. By the time this issue of IZVESTIYA was signed to press 12 September, Moscow had by no means made obvious its interest in what is happening in Crimea. It was announced at the Ukraine desk of the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs Third European Department that the Russian foreign policy department is following the development of the situation closely, but it does not intend to make any statements on this score.

Moscow's official position remains "balanced and restrained," proceeding from last year's Foreign Ministry statement in which Crimea is seen as part of sovereign Ukraine, and "emotive attempts" by the former Russian Federation Supreme Soviet are described as interference in the internal affairs of another state.

The Kievan authorities, a senior staffer at the department pointed out, can sort out their relations with Simferopol for themselves without employing extreme measures, and this process, at this point in time, does not require mediators of any kind. Our interlocutor refused to comment on the legitimacy of the decision by the Crimean parliament depriving Yuriy Meshkov of part of his powers. He merely stressed the importance of the recent meeting between Ukrainian leader Leonid Kuchma and the Crimean president and expressed the hope that the sides will find a mutually acceptable way out of the existing impasse.

The piquancy of the situation resides in the fact that, for Moscow, it is more important to complete work on the text of the Russian-Ukrainian Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Partnership, which is being conducted by special delegations at the behest of the presidents of both sides. The crisis in Simferopol, to all appearances, has broken out at a highly inopportune moment, juat when the diplomats, it seems, have managed to find points of contact in agreeing the most sensitive provisions of the aforementioned document, the lack of which greatly complicates relations between Russia and Ukraine.

Moscow Hopes for Dialog

LD1209192094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1851 GMT 12 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow September 12 TASS—The Russian Foreign Ministry hopes that the sides will find a way out of the Crimean crisis by political means, that is through a dialogue and mutual understanding. This was declared today by Galina Sidorova, political adviser of the Russian foreign minister, who commented on the reaction of the Russian Foreign Ministry to developments in the Crimea.

"We are closely following the situation in the Crimea because a hotbed of tension in this region would be strongly felt in Russia," Sidorova told journalists. "The Russian side proceeds from the assumption that these developments are taking place on the territory of sovereign Ukraine, Russia's neighboring state with the Crimea being its integral part," she said. At the same time, she reminded of a considerable number of the Russian speaking population residing on the Crimean Peninsula.

She pointed out that Moscow is interested in peaceful solution of the crisis with minimum pain. "We hope that all the sides concerned will find a way out of the situation in a civilised way, by means of a dialogue," Sidorova said.

State Duma Chairman Comments

LD1209175594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1434 GMT 12 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow September 12 TASS—The confrontation between the legislative and executive branches of power in Crimea undermines the position of both sides, said Chairman of the Russian State Duma Ivan Rybkin in an interview with ITAR-TASS today, commenting on the decision adopted by the Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov to suspend the activities of the parliament and local councils on the peninsula.

"Both bodies of power are legitimate and were elected by the same electorate, and one would not like to see them being in opposition to each other," Rybkin said.

"I said so both to President Yuriy Meshkov and Chairman of the Crimean Parliament Sergey Tsekov," Rybkin said, adding that, unfortunately, very few people learn from sad mistakes.

Further Rybkin Comments

LD1209200594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1605 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Commenting on the conflict between Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov and the Crimean parliament, Russian Parliamentary Speaker Ivan Rybkin said he agreed with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma that peace of any kind was better than conflict.

Speaking of Meshkov's decision to suspend the Crimean parliament's activities, Rybkin deplored the fact people seemed unable to learn from experience. Rybkin said he had pointed to the legitimacy of the two branches of power and the unacceptability of confrontation between them at his personal meetings with President Meshkov and Parliamentary Speaker Serhiy Tsekov during his recent vacation in Crimea.

"I hope they come to an agreement and act jointly for the good of the people of Crimea, because this confrontation undermines the positions of both branches of power," he said.

Rutskoy on Sevastopol's Status

LD1209175794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1448 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Any attempts at revising the Russian status of the Black Sea Fleet and Sevastopol, its base, are doomed, former Russian vice- president Aleksandr Rutskoy, chairman of the Russian Social- Democratic People's Party, said in a statement sent to Interfax Monday.

The document states that the Sevastopol City Council made an important step towards restoring historic truth by confirming the Russian status of Sevastopol, "Russia's outpost on the Black Sea coast." Rutskoy emphasized that this resolution was in full conformity with legal norms and legislative acts, above all the resolution passed by the Russian Supreme Soviet Praesidium on October 29, 1948.

The Sevastopol City Council, Rutskoy believes, has rebuked various "political speculators" who tried to misrepresent the history of a great state for the sake of their nationalist ambitions.

His statement expressed the hope that the new Ukrainian leaders would show understanding in tackling this issue "in the name of the great brotherhood between two Slavic peoples."

Yeltsin Aide Comments

MM1209140594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Sep 94 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Separatism Hits at Those Who Create It"]

[Text] Emil Pain, member of the Presidential Council, is convinced that the decision adopted by the Crimean Supreme Council approving Sevastopol City Council's decree granting the city the status of a component of the Russian Federation will not worsen relations between Ukraine and Russia.

Emil Pain, who heads the Interethnic Problems Section of the Analytical Center under the Russian Federation president, commented in an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent that "the present degree of mutual understanding between the leadership of Russia and Ukraine is above putting pressure on Leonid Kuchma with the help of the Crimean question."

Pain emphasized that "separatism as a tool of political struggle hits, above all, at those who create it."

Moscow, Kiev To Establish Joint Oil Company

MK1309082094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 1

[INTERFAX report: "Russian-Ukrainian Oil Company To Be Set Up"]

[Text] The legal formalization of the first Russian-Ukrainian multinational oil company, the "Russian-Ukrainian Oil Society," will be completed in the next few days, Stanislav Pugach, spokesman for the Russian Federation Fuel and Energy Ministry, said. According to Pugach, the purpose of setting up the company is to create a stable system for processing raw materials from Russian oil producing enterprises at the Lisichansk refinery and to supply Russia's southwestern regions and eastern Ukraine with petroleum products.

Accumulation of Ukraine Economic Problems Eyed

MM1209140794 Moscow TRUD in Russian 10 Sep 94 p 3

[Article by Igor Ostrovskiy under "View of the Situation" rubric: "Maybe an Ace of Trumps Will Turn Up"]

[Text] Virtually every day there are new reports on reshuffles in [Ukrainian Prime Minister] V. Masol's government. It is already clear that the Ukrainian parliament will start discussing questions concerning the composition of the Council of Ministers as of the very first sittings of the fall session.

The reshuffles are getting a mixed reaction, even in the presidential team itself. Thus, V. Malenkovich, the chief ideologist behind Leonid Kuchma's election campaign and the author of the slogans which ultimately helped him win, has voluntarily quit as a sign of protest. He was indignant at the fact that authority over the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the security service has been concentrated in the hands of V. Marchuk, a man who was famous in Soviet years as a vehement persecutor of dissidents and people with nonconformist views.

But the greatest attention is being attracted by the arrival of new people in the leadership of the Ministry of Defense and the Committee for Television and Radiobroadcasting. V. Shmarov, a representative of the military-industrial complex, has become minister of defense, replacing General Radetskyy. This replacement is very significant. Behind it lie both disagreement with Radetskyy's aggressively anti-Russian policy and a desire to break into the world market with Ukrainian weapons, since capacities for manufacturing rockets, tanks, airplanes, and warships are not overloaded. With Shmarov's arrival we can expect a speedy settlement of problems such as the division of the Black Sea Fleet, the strengthening of Russian-Ukrainian military cooperation, and the restoration of cooperation between enterprises in the Russian and Ukrainian military-industrial complexes.

A lot of people have been openly pleased with the change in the leadership of the Committee for Television and Radiobroadcasting. The transformation of the state television into a kind of almanac of ethnography, history, and folklore and a visual aid for propagating the ideas of politicians of a nationalist hue had been directly associated with the name of the previous head of this department, N. Okhmakevych. Things had reached the point where Russian speech only had the right to be heard on Ukrainian television at the personal discretion of the chairman of the television and radiobroadcasting committee. He was replaced in this post by V. Savenko, the 39-year-old editor of a little-known newspaper, KIEVSKIY VESTNIK. Let us hope that, with his arrival, Ukrainian television will start to correspond to the tastes and interests of the majority of the country's population, which deems Russian too to be a legitimate language of communication.

The changes in the government pack of cards are being actively discussed today in many families, enterprises, and labor collectives. Maybe an ace of trumps which will help solve Ukraine's painful problems will suddenly turn up? Only time will tell whether or not it will turn up in the pack.

But if you compare with these other events concerning the Ukrainian economy then you cannot help doubting that they will have good consequences. One of the first steps taken by Masol's government was the July decision on the upcoming revaluation of fixed production capital by a factor of 55. This is to be carried out by 1 October. At first sight, the decision is justified. The more expensive capital assets are, the greater the amortization deductions. That is, the government is hoping that enterprises will acquire the money for retooling and renovation and for investments. And the revival of the investment process is the main and, practically, the only way to recovery for the entire economy.

But what will happen if the amortization deductions increase by a factor of 55? First and foremost, the price of a lot of Ukrainian-made goods, both consumer goods and industrial goods, will increase many times over. And after all, many of them already exceed the world level. Coal and sugar, for example—two traditional Ukrainian commodities—are already being sold at prices higher than world prices. So what will happen if there is a massive price increase as of 1 October? First of all, obviously, the next round in the decline of the rate of the Ukrainian karbovanets against the dollar and the Russian ruble will start, prices will go up, and the already miserable level of prosperity will fall correspondingly.

The present rulers of Ukraine are hoping for the normalization of economic relations with Russia and the CIS countries. Let us assume that the Ukrainian and Russian presidents will manage to find a common language when settling the question of creating economic and customs unions, and Ukrainian goods will be given unhindered access to the Russian market. But who will be interested in them if they are more expensive than foreign goods, and, what is more, of worse quality?

The government pack can be shuffled. But how to resolve the other problems overwhelming the ordinary Ukrainian citizen like an avalanche?

Foreign Ministry Official on Karabakh Peace Process

LD1209202794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1753 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Moscow September 12 ITAR-TASS—The likelihood and the date of a tripartite summit meeting of the presidents of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia, the latter in the role of a mediator, will depend on willingness of the warring parties to sign a peace agreement on Nagorno-Karabakh, reporters were told on Monday by Galina Sidorova, an aide to the Russian foreign minister.

Sidorova said the signing of the political agreement at a summit level might catalyse the peace process in the region, where a truce had been keeping for several months.

Problems which accumulated during the conflict between Azerbaijan and its breakaway enclave are so complicated that political settlement can be started only in conditions of stability, Sidorova said.

Certainly, she added, Armenia and Azerbaijan are to have the final say, but much depends on how successfully Russia performs as a mediator in reaching the much waited compromise.

Border Official on Nationality of 'Poaching' Vessels

LD1309075494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0743 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow September 13 TASS—"The fishing boats, arrested for poaching in Russian territorial waters on September 12, belong to China and South Korea," ITAR-TASS was told today by Rear-Admiral Sergey Skalinov, first assistant commander of the Russian Naval Frontier Guards.

According to Skalinov, the South Korean fishing boat "Kun-Siur 808" had on board 13 tonnes of squid. The skipper has signed a protocol, admitting unlawful fishing in Russian territorial waters.

The second vessel without any identification marks—the "Shau- Yu-621" with a displacement of 700 tonnes and a crew of 22 men was found to be Chinese. Twenty-six tonnes of squid were discovered on board the vessel after its arrest.

Rear-Admiral Skalinov said that the skipper of the Chinese ship did not react to the signals of the Russian border guards for almost six hours, refusing to comply with their lawful demands. Therefore, after some warning shots, the Russian border guards were compelled fire for effect.

As a result, one poacher was killed and another gravely wounded. He died shortly afterwards. The border guards believe that the wounded man could have been saved by urgent medical aid if not for the unwillingness of the Chinese to obey the orders of the Russian patrol boat.

Fisherman Dies Aboard Arrested Boat

LD1309082494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0734 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow September 13 TASS—The fishing boats "Kun Sun Siur-880" and "Shau Yu-621", arrested on Monday for poaching in Russian territorial waters, were taken today to Krabovaya Bay on Shikotan island. A wounded member of the "Shau Yu-621" crew died when the ship was being taken to the bay, at 5 hours 30 minutes local time. One more fisherman was shot dead earlier, when the vessel was being arrested.

Russian border guards were compelled to open fire on a group of ships, which refused to obey their order to stop. The "Shau Yu-621" got four shot holes as a result of the firing. There were no casualties during the arrest of the "Kun Sun Siur-880" off the island of Tanfilyev. The other boats, which also came under fire, managed to escape from Russian territorial waters. Large lots of fresh-frozen squid were found on board the two vessels—13 and 26 tonnes respectively.

The nationality of the boats, found poaching in Russian territorial waters, is now being established. Trustworthy sources believe that they belong, most likely, to Taiwan or to the Republic of Korea.

ITAR-TASS was told on Monday by Rear-Admiral Sergey Skalinov, first assistant commander of the Russian naval frontier guards, that one of the skippers had already signed documents, confessing that his vessel was engaged in unlawful activities and had violated the Russian state border.

According to the rear-admiral, taking part in the operation to arrest the poachers were planes and helicopters of the border guard forces and patrol boats. They had demonstrated much skill and devotion to their military duty. In spite of stormy weather, the border guards were able to board the poacher-vessels in order to inspect them. This required exceptional skills from the crews of the patrol vessels.

The admiral said foreign poachers, wishing to wax rich on the wealth of Russia, recently begun to change their fishing tactics and to seek new fishing grounds. They were formerly most active near the island of Tanfilyev. Now they have appeared from the rear, not expecting to be discovered there. However, the border guard planes and naval units are dependably guarding the Russian border. "We have what to defend and we are provided with every necessary means to cut short all attempts to rob the wealth of Russia," the rear-admiral stressed.

RSA Foreign Minister Prepares Mandela's Visit

LD1209144394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1033 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo, now in Moscow on a first official visit, met Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov this morning.

This afternoon Nzo is expected to hold talks with Russian First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets. The Russian Foreign Ministry told INTERFAX that they will discuss a wide range of bilateral cooperation issues, including cooperation in the military-technical sphere.

The same source said that during his visit Nzo will focus on preparations for the coming visit of South African President Nelson Mandela to Russia.

Nzo may also meet with other leaders of Russian ministries and departments today. The Russian Foreign Ministry said that this will depend on how long the meeting between Nzo and Soskovets will last.

On Tuesday Nzo is expected to negotiate with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. After the meeting they are expected to sign a protocol on consultations between the foreign ministries of the two countries with the aim of boosting cooperation in the international arena.

The official part of Nzo's visit to Russia will end on September 13. The Russian Foreign Ministry said that after this Nzo will remain in Russia for several days to have a rest before continuing his schedule of foreign visits.

Military Cooperation Stressed

LD1209195994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1605 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] After meeting with South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo in Moscow Monday, Russian First Vice Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets said it was necessary to develop and sign an agreement for long-term military cooperation between Russia and South Africa.

Soskovets said representatives of the two countries were considering Russia's participation in the modification and improvement of the engines of Mirage fighters currently used by the South African air force.

"This will surely provoke certain emotions among our competitors on the international market, but I would like to emphasize that Russia is a reliable partner," Soskovets said.

The two sides agreed that bilateral cooperation in the trade of platinum, jewel processing and gold production had good prospects.

Soskovets called for setting up an intergovernmental committee for trade and economic cooperation, for speeding up the signing of an agreement to avoid dual taxation and for signing documents on the mutual protection and encouragement of investments as soon as possible.

For his part, Nzo said that South Africa, besides military and technical cooperation, was also interested in establishing exchange of information, Russian aid to construct cheap housing and developing scientific and cultural ties.

Nzo also said that South Africa was ready to cooperate with Russia in the settlement of conflicts on the African continent and invited Soskovets to visit South Africa.

Grachev Invites RSA Defense Minister to Visit

LD1309085994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0824 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Vladimir Korochantsev and Andrey Serov]

[Text] Moscow September 13 TASS—"Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev has invited his South African counterpart Joe Modise to visit Russia," South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo told ITAR-TASS today in reply to its question.

Nzo, who is currently on an official visit in Moscow, got a letter from the Russian defence minister addressed to Modise. "Concrete problems of military-technological cooperation could be discussed in detail in the Russian capital by the heads of the defence establishments of the two countries," the South African foreign minister pointed out.

Oil Consortium Awaits Lifting UN Sanctions on Iraq

MS1209143294 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 12 Sep 94 p 4

[Report by John Thornhill: "Russians Prepare For Iraqi Oil Trade Go-Ahead"]

[Text] Moscow— A consortium of Russian oil companies is developing plans to invest in Iraq in anticipation of the possible lifting of United Nations trade sanctions.

The Russian consortium, consisting of Lukoil, Mashinoimport, and Zarubezhneft, has been talking to Iraqi officials for several months about developing existing projects. Zarubezhneft, which handled overseas oil projects in the Soviet era, has had previous experience of working in Iraq.

Mr Vagit Alekperov, Lukoil's president, has fleshed out plans in recent meetings with senior officials from the

Iraqi oil ministry. Lukoil, one of the new generation of privatised Russian oil companies, plans to exploit the western Kurna and northern Rumeila fields in northern Iraq. It is reported to be willing to negotiate initial investments of $800m (516.1m pounds) to $1bn but would need a total of $2.3bn for oil prospecting and equipment supplies.

Lukoil said it would be possible to finance most of the project through private investment although, like all other Russian energy companies, it has faced cash-flow problems because of the build-up of inter-enterprise debts. Lukoil has been trying to offset these by developing its activities outside Russia to increase its hard-currency earnings.

Weekend reports from the Iraqi News Agency said Iraq and Russia had signed a $10bn trade agreement to take effect after the lifting of the four-year oil and economic embargo.

The news agency said the agreement covered industry and oil projects, but did not elaborate.

Iraq has outstanding debts to Russia of more than $10bn. Moscow is continuing to press for a lifting of the international embargo on trade with Baghdad which was imposed after the Gulf war in 1991.

Other foreign oil companies, including Elf Aquitaine and Total of France, have also been jostling to take advantage of any relaxation of the trade embargo with Iraq, according to Russian officials.

Agreement Signed With Switzerland on Money Laundering

LD1209212394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1830 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Russia's Interior Ministry and Switzerland's Federal Department of Justice and Police (FDJP) have signed a cooperation memorandum.

The document, signed by Russian Interior Minister Viktor Yerin and FDJP director Arnold Koller in Moscow on Monday, is aimed at preventing Russian criminals from laundering their money in Swiss banks.

Switzerland has changed its legislation to allow its banks to help police authorities by informing them about offenders' accounts, Koller told a news conference in Moscow.

According to Yerin, honest Russians having money in Swiss banks have nothing to fear. "Nobody is going to try to reveal the secrets of anyone's private life or commercial activity," the minister said in an interview with Interfax.

But criminal money must not be allowed to be safely kept in banks in any country, Yerin continued. He said the memorandum could be a good example for other countries to follow if they wished to cooperate with Russian law- enforcement services and was part of a general effort, made by "the majority of civilized nations, to protect banking systems from tricksters," Yerin said.

He complained that, while Swiss banks were quite willing to cooperate with law-enforcement agencies, in Russia even "elementary attempts" to adopt such practices evoked "stormy and often groundless indignation" among banks.

Chernomyrdin, Georgian Premier Discuss Economic Issues

LD1209212694 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1950 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] The head of the Georgian delegation, Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia met the Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin during the meeting of heads of the CIS states in Moscow. The meeting was held in a warm and businesslike atmosphere. The key subject of discussion was leading the Georgian economy out of the crisis and establishing bonds with the Russian economy. The heads of the governments also discussed problems of Abkhazia and a prompt receipt of the credits allotted to Georgia. The Russian prime minister vowed to Patsatsia that these issues would be resolved in the immediate future.

On 12 September, Patsatsia met Stanislav Anissimov, the director general of the Federal Contracting Corporation. Vili Alavidze, the deputy trade minister of Georgia, accompanied the Georgian prime minister. The meeting discussed the issues envisaged by the Russian-Georgian state agreement, the realization of which had been proceeding in an unsatisfactory manner. Due to the situation in Chechnya and the temporary stoppage of rail traffic, it was decided to freight cargo by air and sea. Anissimov told the Georgian prime minister that he understood the problems that Georgian industry was experiencing in supplying Russia with products envisaged by the agreement and added he was ready to send Georgia products worth 1 billion rubles beforehand on credit to be paid back later. They also agreed that the management of Roskontrakt would discuss in an operational manner establishing joint Russian-Georgian enterprises and supplying them with raw material. The meeting also discussed other specific issues.

Malaysian Army Chief Cited on Objectives of Visit

MM1209143194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Yegorov: "Malaysia Not Only Interested in MIG's"]

[Text] As was reported at the press service of the "Rosvooruzheniye" State Company, the visit to Russia of a Malaysian military delegation led by Ismail Omar, commander in chief of this state's ground forces, has ended.

During the visit the Malaysian delegation head familiarized himself with several examples of Russian armored vehicles and artillery, and air defense missile systems.

As General Ismail Omar stated, the visit's main goal was to establish contacts between the two countries' ground forces and the defense enterprises which produce arms and military hardware for them. As the Malaysian ground forces are at present in the process of being formed, developments in the materials and technical base and information from arms markets, including that of Russia, are of practical significance to the guests.

ROK Signs Cultural Cooperation Accord

LD1309084094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0735 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko]

[Text] Seoul September 13 TASS—A programme of cultural cooperation between Russia and South Korea for 1995-1996 was signed in the South Korean capital on Tuesday. The two countries established official relations just four years ago. The programme will enable citizens of the two countries to learn more about life in the other country. The programme envisages exchange of entertainers, musicians, visits of experts in literature and arts and the holding of various exhibitions. A Russian cultural centre is to open in Seoul. This will promote mutual understanding between the two peoples and their spiritual enrichment. Yevgeniy Sidorov, the Russian minister of culture, and Yi Min-sop, the minister of culture and sports of South Korea, signed this substantive document. Sidorov believes there are good prospects for cultural cooperation between Russia and South Korea.

In an interview to ITAR-TASS Sidorov pointed to the impressive combination of signs of ancient times and dynamic industrial development in Seoul and other South Korean cities that he visited for the first time. He said Russia could effectively use South Korea's experience, for instance, in setting up museums and equipment of cultural facilities. "To deepen mutual ties our countries should look forward and rely on creative young people, develop student exchange", Sidorov said.

He said the governments of Russia and South Korea plan to exchange concerts and exhibitions by young workers in arts and measures for assisting young performers in joint release of compact disks. The Russian side is ready to exhibit in South Korean museums some 30-40 canvases by I.K. Aivazovskiy, as many Russian icons, as well as works by contemporary artists. An exhibition of Russian folk costumes and articles of the traditional Russian tea ceremony will also be sent. Seoul experts will be enabled to study Korean national treasures kept in famous Russian museums. A South Korean stage director will be invited to stage a production in a theatre in St. Petersburg. Close cooperation will be established between the biggest libraries of the two countries.

European Development Bank Buys Tokobank Shares

MM1309085194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Ivan Zhagel: "For First Time West Invests Big Money in Russia's Banking System"]

[Text] Citing officials of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD], the financial news agency INTERFAX has published what is without exaggeration the sensational report that the EBRD intends to acquire a package of Tokobank shares worth a total of $35 million. The agreement will be signed between the two sides in late September.

In turn, in an interview with IZVESTIYA, representatives of Tokobank also confirmed that the relevant talks have been held. Actually they were quite restrained and even deemed it necessary to stipulate that initially the information leak was from London. And in general this caution is understandable, since after all if the agreement is signed it will be the first instance of substantial investment in Russian commercial banks by international financial organizations.

A notable precedent could thus be created and the road is open to other direct investments in Russia's banking sphere. At any rate, considering the prestige of the EBRD, its decision will undoubtedly be treated with attention. At the same time it is worth noting the galvanization of the actions of the European Bank itself with regard to Russia.

Commenting for IZVESTIYA on the fact of the proposed investments in Tokobank, Aleksandr Potemkin, director of the Central Bank of Russia foreign operations department, stated that since the recent change of leadership at the EBRD the bank has been trying to achieve specific results in our country. Right now groups of European Bank specialists are working on interesting projects in Nizhniy Novgorod, Tula, and other Russian cities. But major investments attended by big financial risks presuppose cooperation with substantial Russian banks, which is why the choice fell on Tokobank.

According to A. Potemkin before the EBRD board of directors decided to invest $35 million the relevant consultations were also held with the Central Bank of Russia. So that, considering all these talks, one can speak with almost 100 percent certainty of an EBRD agreement with Tokobank.

After buying the shares the European bank will own approximately 14 percent of the currency part of the Russian commercial bank's capital. That will enable the EBRD to get a seat on the Tokobank board and to some degree influence the decisions which are made and the credit policy which is being implemented and which today, in contrast to many other commercial banks, is geared toward supporting the fuel and energy complex and developing telecommunications, transport, and communications systems and other vitally important sectors of industry.

To this it is worth adding that, apart from vigorous actions inside the country, Tokobank has become widely known on the foreign financial market. It is no accident that the prestigious international journal THE BANKER put Tokobank with four other Russian banks—the Foreign Trade Bank of Russia, the Bank for Labor Savings and Credit to the Population, the Innovations Commercial Bank, and the Imperial—on its list of the world's 1,000 biggest banks. The journal EUROMONEY called it one of our best Russian banks on the basis of its 1993 results and the World Bank has included Tokobank in the list of those Russian banks with which it is prepared to cooperate in the field of implementing programs for the development of Russia's banking sector.

Revival of Austrian Trade Commission Hailed

MM1209133694 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Sep 94 p 3

[Report by correspondent Igor Melnikov: "Going Over Old Ground"]

[Text] Vienna—The first session of the Russian-Austrian mixed commission on trade and economic cooperation, held in Vienna, provided material for numerous commentaries in the press here. That is only natural: Although in the period of just under three years that has passed since the breakup of the USSR, no political problems have arisen in relations between Moscow and Vienna, the same certainly cannot be said for the economic sphere, and particularly trade. According to official statistics, compared with 1990, Austrian exports had "slimmed down" by 3.8 billion schillings by the end of last year, and imports by 2.6 billion. Russia has become firmly established among the Alpine republic's biggest debtors. Failure to pay for goods delivered to our country has hit small and medium-sized firms here particularly hard, bringing a number of them to the brink of ruin.

All this, taken together, predetermined the absence of rosy hues in the Austrian newspapers' reactions. What price, for instance, this headline from Vienna's DER KURIER: "The Negligent Babushka Russia Owes Austria 53 Billion Schillings." People may object that you can hardly expect anything else from the gutter press.

But let us look at what the reputable Austrian newspapers are saying. DER STANDARD, the business circles' organ, in a commentary headed "Problems of the Russian Debt," notes that despite the accord that was reached as long ago as last fall on extinguishing the debt, numerous suppliers of goods to Russia are still fearful for their livelihoods. Profound concern can also be seen in the remarks of one of Vienna's oldest publications—DIE PRESSE.

Let us note, to be fair, that in their concluding assessments of the commission's work, the Austrian newspapers' critical fire is somewhat quenched. A part was apparently played both by objective factors (the ice has started to break this year—trade turnover between the two countries has begun to emerge from the prolonged state of recession) and by the competence of the Russian experts. A typical comment is the one I heard from one colleague, a highly experienced Austrian journalist: "It is a good thing that the tradition of mixed commissions has been revived. Here everything is out in the open, and professionalism, or the lack of it, is immediately visible. In this respect O. Davydov, Russia's present minister of foreign economic relations, compares favorably with his predecessor, Mr. Aven."

True enough. It was hardly possible to win your partner's respect by being excessively complaisant, smoothing off the sharp corners, and above all trying to make up by ambition for the lack of experience and knowledge. Against this former background, the position of the present minister, who tries to uphold Russia's national interests, seems preferable. Immediately after the report which O. Davydov delivered to Austrian businesspeople in the packed hall of the Federal Chamber of Economics, I sought their opinions. My interlocutors noted his professionalism and his mastery of the subject under discussion during direct interaction with the auditorium. And of course no one omitted to mention the critical words of the leader of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations concerning the notorious Cocom [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls]—that offspring of the cold war which is trying to this day to hobble our foreign trade and impose discriminatory conditions on it.

The revival of the all but lost tradition of regular sessions of the mixed intergovernmental commission was assessed at its true value by the Austrian side. Now, W. Schuessel, federal minister for economic affairs, believes, Vienna will be able more confidently to encourage Austrian businesspeople's initiative and count on responsive actions by the Russian side, first and foremost as regards providing the necessary legal guarantees.

Going over old ground and directing today's organizations to the rich experience of Soviet foreign trade could provide the impetus to seek new ways of economic cooperation between Russia and abroad. Russian-Austrian cooperation is, so to speak, the advance proof of this truth.

CFE Inspectors Satisfied After Check of 14th Army Hardware

MM1209151394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Sep 94 p 2

[ITAR-TASS report: "Inspectors Satisfied"]

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau], 9 Sep—A group of military inspectors from Germany were satisfied with the results of the inspection they carried out last week on the equipment and arms of the Russian 14th Army in Moldavia's Dniester Region. This is mentioned in a statement by the group's leader, Colonel Yorn Staberg, which has been released in Kishinev.

It was established that Russia is carrying out its obligations under the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe [CFE]. A check carried out on the 14th Army's 356th Tank Regiment showed that its quantity of arms match particulars provided during the exchange of information between CFE Treaty signatories. The quantity of military hardware on Moldavia's territory as a whole does not exceed the limits laid down by the treaty, Yorn Staberg emphasized.

Patriarch Aleksey Offers Disaster Condolences to Moldova

MM1209141194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Sep 94 First Edition p 6

[Report by Lyudmila Feliksova: "Moldova: Help Has Come from the Patriarch"]

[Text] In connection with the natural disaster that has befallen Moldavia [Moldova] President M. Snegur has received a telegram from Aleksiy, patriarch of Moscow and all Russia. Expressing sympathy, the head of the Russian Orthodox Church writes, in particular: "During these days the land of Moldova, where millions of our church's flock live, receives a special mention in the prayers of Orthodox Christians."

Patriarch Aleksiy has made a personal donation to the tune of 15 million Russian rubles for the needs of the victims and has assured the president of Moldavia that he will very actively urge Russian and foreign philanthropists to send humanitarian aid to the republic as quickly as possible.

Academician Views Future Relations With Bonn

AU1309085394 Berlin DIE WELT in German 6 Sep 94 p 7

[Commentary by Igor Maksimychev, departmental head of European security at the Europe Institute of the Moscow Academy of Sciences: "Suspicion Must Be Dispelled—Russia and Germany Carry the Chief Burden of Responsibility for the Fate of Europe"]

[Text] The 50th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe is upon us. The ceremonies marking this anniversary have been planned to the very last detail. It is well worth doing so, for were it not for the final military operations of May 1945, the world would look very different today. All of us who are shaping today's Europe, the Allies as well as their former enemies, are the children of the victory over the total war that was fanatically waged by German national socialism. For this very reason we must all participate in establishing a lasting coexistence in Europe and elsewhere in the world. Almost every single country on every continent was involved in World War II. There was a European, an Asian, an African, and a Pacific theater of war. But when one talks of the war today, with all its atrocities, cruelty, and senselessness, one has in mind mainly Eastern Europe, where millions died in the space of four years. The Germans and Russians in particular tend to identify World War II primarily with Eastern Europe. Sometimes, these two nations think of the entire war as one big Russo-German conflict par excellence. One still remembers the Soviet view, wherein the division of Germany was the greatest achievement of the war ("as long as Germany is divided, Europe poses no danger to the Soviet Union"). Even on the German side one subsequently spoke of Moscow's key role in establishing German unity in conditions of peace and liberty. Only later were there talks.

This explains why many Russians also consider the "post- confrontational period" in Europe mainly as a German-Russian challenge. Formulations on the subject of the present situation lead many people to assume, not quite correctly, that Europe has gone back 70 years in time and is faced with the danger of repeating old mistakes. Because the Germans and the Russians would once again be the main bearers of responsibility in such a situation (which cannot be ruled out), it is up to them to make sure that history follows a different course. Once again the two nations bear the burden of responsibility for the fate of the continent.

The conclusion of the pullout of Russian troops from Germany on 31 August has created fears among many Russians, and, surprisingly enough, among many Germans as well, that with the departure of the troops, the relations between the two countries would suddenly lose their substance, as if the presence of Russian troops in Germany had been the only link holding the bilateral friendship together. But a loss of the feeling of friendship between the two countries could be very harmful to Europe. The specter of a new division of Europe might once again arise as a result. The vicious circle of rivalry over the leading position in the region, crises and tension between different parts of Europe, conflicts and mutual weaknesses—all this would be of benefit only to the nations that are standing on the sidelines, because a repeated self-destruction by the Europeans would finally erase Europe's status in the world.

Although it would be naive to attribute German-Russian relations to the presence of Russian troops in Germany, the concern about a joint German-Russian future is, unfortunately, justified. Many people on both sides still eye each other with suspicion, in the light of the past century of conflicts. The need for a consolidation of constructive coexistence between Germany and Russian has still not been anchored in the minds of both countries' societies as firmly as, for instance, the need for strong Franco- German or German-Polish relations has been anchored in the minds of the Germans and the need for Russo-American or Franco-Russian relations has been anchored in the minds of the Russians. One cannot solely entrust governments with the task of implanting this awareness. Only when both societies do so will one be able to say that there is no risk of repeating old errors.

If Russian progress toward the Western part of the world continues to be marred by ignoring Russian vital interests and its repudiation of communist dictatorship continues to be classified as a Cold War defeat, one can be sure that this will serve to create a sick, inflamed, precarious, and possibly very nationalistic Russia. Russia will either be an integral and equal part of the pan-European organism that is yet to be formed, or it will be situated behind a new version of the Berlin Wall, with all the dangers that this entails. Gorbachev's dream of a "de-ideologization" of international politics, blindly adopted by Yeltsin's still inexperienced team, may be more of a well meant illusion than anything else. The moral apostles of our time have very quickly demonstrated their ability to sweep aside major principles if they do not suit their national or power interests. Russian politics is slowly but surely adapting to the world's reality. The West should have facilitated this inevitable adaptation, instead of sounding alarms at every possible occasion about an alleged re-emergence of Russian imperialism. Russian imperialism no longer exists, but it can be conjured up quite easily.

Over the past few weeks,there have been several large-scale German press campaigns apparently aimed at proving that Russia is in such a desolate condition that the best solution would be for the country to be placed under foreign supervision. This is happening at the very time when the strongly pro-Western Yeltsin administration is celebrating its first successes in stabilizing the overall situation. No Russian government can permit the most sensitive sphere of national security to be controlled by the FBI or the German Federal Intelligence Service, especially because the situation is under control. The talks by Bernd Schmidbauer in Moscow have shown that quiet diplomacy is capable of achieving all reasonable objectives. But loud, panicky calls by the German media can summon up old ghosts.

History is fond of symbolic gestures now and then. The conclusion of the pullout of Russian forces from Germany almost coincided with the 55th anniversary of the start of World War II. That is how long it took to overcome the bitter effects of Hitler's crazy action. Today, not just the war is over, but the postwar period as well. Now is the time to build the kind of European peaceful order that will forever rule out the possibility of the past repeating itself. This is a challenge first and foremost for the Germans and the Russians.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Eager To Settle Differences With Parliament

LD1209182694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1524 GMT 12 Sep 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] President Yeltsin's representative in the Federal Assembly Aleksandr M. Yakovlev disagrees with those analysts who say that the appearance of new sub-units and persons in charge of relations with the legislature in the government and presidential staff is evidence that the executive authorities begin to lobby the lawmakers.

Yakovlev said in an interview that the mission of those structures and figures would be to ensure the normal coordination of branches of power. "Any monitoring of lawmakers' activity or pressure on them, or subordination of one branch of power to another is ruled out", Yakovlev said.

The presidential representative sees his own mission in explaining and defending the position of the head of state and exclusively at the "juridical level, the level of bills, and not at the political level".

It is very important to ensure that this activity customary in any democratic country should not be seen as an attempt to control the lawmakers, Yakovlev said.

He stated that the president was "determined to eliminate the conflicts whenever they can be eliminated by inviting parliamentary factions to his office". Yakovlev recalled that such contacts had taken place earlier and proved very fruitful.

"I believe that the president is guided precisely by the desire to preserve the delimitation of powers but at the same time to coordinate their actions to the maximum extent, to narrow differences wherever they can be narrowed and eliminate misunderstandings that may arise due to the lack of information", Yakovlev said. "We must meet and talk as often as possible", he added. Yakovlev said that conciliatory procedures of various kinds would help do away with conflicts at early stages before they gain momentum and explode in a scandal.

Chechnya Seen Threatening Russian Integrity

MM1309103794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 2

[Commentary by State Duma Deputy Boris Fedorov: "Chechnya and the Collapse of the Russian State"]

[Text] I asked one of our important figures in what country there could be an armed rebellion with criminal overtones happening in one of its parts while the central authorities pretend for three years that it is a private problem. He was very surprised that the country is called Russia and that the rebellion is going on in Chechnya.

It is staggering that a state created by our forebears over 11 centuries ago should be collapsing while official and opposition leaders basically remain silent. Chechnya continues to be cited in the statistics, documents, and, last but not least, the Constitution, everyone discusses the "Chechen mafia," but no criminals are handed over, no Russian officials are arrested, no taxes are collected, and so forth.

The question of Chechnya is fundamental. The fate of other regions of the country depends on how it is resolved—including national and purely territorial formations. The hope that the question will gradually disappear, and the reluctance to tackle the problem are obvious.

There are not many ways of tackling the problem, but ways do exist. The president, parliament, and the government have to make a decision either on imposing order by the methods avalable to the state or on Chechnya's official secession from the Russian Federation. If no one can make the decision himself, then hold a referendum. **The maintenance of the present situation is shameful to and unworthy of Russia.**

Imposing order means ensuring that the Constitution and the laws of Russia operate on the territory of Chechnya, eliminating illegal armed formations, punishing those guilty of crimes, collecting taxes, paying pensions, and organizing other everyday matters. All this is in the interests of all citizens of Russia, including the inhabitants of Chechnya. The secession of Chechnya from Russia means closing the border and having relations with Chechnya as a foreign state.

No matter how difficult making the decision is, it is essential it be done. A state incapable of solving its own problems will collapse.

But the problem is broader than the problem of Chechnya. The preservation of Russia requires:

1. The elimination of inequality among the components of the Federation and the political concessions granted particular regions.

2. Recognition of the incontrovertible fact that a sovereign state does not contain sovereign parts.

3. The abrogation of agreements between the center and the republics which discriminate against other components. Agreements have been voided of meaning and allow the transfer of functions in such a way that the center retains purely representative ones.

4. The designation of attempts to cause the collapse of Russia as crimes.

5. The recovery of debts owed the federal budget by republics which shift the burden of state expenditure

onto others and enjoy low prices as a consequence. Why should Ryazan pay for Tataria and live worse?

6. A two-channel taxation system and the inadmissibility of "contributions" to the budget of Russia and other schemes which make Russia the hostage of local interests.

Given all this, a new regional policy is needed, one which will include the transfer of functions to the regions which are not intrinsic to the center; development programs for such regions as the Far East and Siberia, including concessions for investments and settlers (including those from former USSR republics); and the resettlement of people and transfer of production units from the rayons of the Extreme North which are unsuitable for human habitation. It is necessary to expand links among the regions based on the development of transport and road construction, including expressways and railroad main lines. Another thing is necessary too, but with observance of the main principle, namely a single and indivisible state and consideration of common and regional interests.

If Russia cannot resolve the problem of Chechnya in worthy fashion, its fate is a sorry one. Our state has been struck by paralysis of will, with the most adverse consequences for people, including bloodshed, crime, ethnic strife, the high-handedness and corruption of officials, and the inertia and impunity of the authorities.

One more thing: We are being urged to revise history. The claims made are various, but they often fail to stand up to examination. For example, Novgorod has more formal rights to sovereignty than other republics (created under Soviet power)—it was bloodily conquered by the Muscovite princes, and, moreover, later than the affiliation of certain ethnic groups. And yet Novgorod was a state and a distinctive republic. However, forays into history are dangerous—the whole country could be redrawn that way.

Lenin and Stalin left us a national-territorial time bomb which has already gone off in the USSR and Yugoslavia, leaving hundreds of thousands of corpses. We must learn the lessons and counterpose an iron will to the forces of destruction. We have too many problems to contend with regarding our standard of living and the development of the economy to be dependent on the aspirations and complexes of Dudayev and Khasbulatov.

Fulfillment of Social Accord Pact Assessed

MM1209161194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Sep 94 First Edition pp 1, 4

[Report by Russian Federation president's Analysis Center: "On Progress in Implementing the Treaty on Social Accord"]

[Text] As of now the Russian Federation president and government have done the following work to fulfill the commitments adopted under the Treaty on Social Accord.

Section I: The Attainment of Political Stability in Society

At present one of the most significant avenues in activity to implement the Treaty on Social Accord is the elaboration of effective mechanisms and procedures for resolving the tasks laid down by the treaty.

In accordance with the Russian Federation president's edict No 1179 of 9 June 1994 "On Measures To Implement the Treaty on Social Accord" a Conciliation Commission has been set up to implement the treaty's provisions, and five commissions on spheres corresponding to the five sections of the treaty have been set up within the Public Chamber. On the initiative of members of the Public Chamber and the Conciliation Commission, five "roundtables" have been set up to discuss the most essential problems and elaborate recommendations on resolving them.

Sittings of the Conciliation Commission examine practically all the appeals addressed to the commission and determine the necessary measures to resolve [questions] raised in these appeals. Decisions by the Conciliation Commission are adopted only unanimously, according to the consensus principle.

The Conciliation Commission put forward the suggestion of holding an assembly of parties to the treaty in fall 1994. Such assemblies may be held regularly (say once every six months) to discuss accumulated experience in elaborating conciliation procedures and ways of resolving the most important socioeconomic and political problems facing the country.

The parties to the Treaty on Social Accord reached understanding of the need to hold in the fall of this year a congress of parties and movements that signed the document. This initiative should help to narrow the gap between the positions of constructive forces on questions of political and economic development of vital importance to the country, and also on ensuring the nonviolent course of processes in the country.

Section II of the Treaty: "Overcoming the Socioeconomic Crisis"

1. The level of inflation is to be lowered and inflation is to be controlled.

Inflation in August stood at 4.0 percent, its lowest level since the beginning of 1992. A slight increase is expected in September (no more than 6 percent).

One danger is that government representatives are making statements (widely quoted in the mass media) regarding an increase in inflation, which is provoking increased inflationary expectations.

2. An increase in investment activities should be secured and the preconditions for economic upsurge should be created.

This is a more long-term task that could not be resolved in the period since the signing of the treaty. This period has seen the adoption of a decree on stimulating nonbudgetary investment and the holding of a session of the Consultative Council on Foreign Investments with the participation of major Western investors with the aim of securing an increase in the influx of foreign investment into Russia. Decisions are in preparation that will make it possible to considerably improve the investment climate in Russia.

The positive interest rate is making it possible to resume the process of accumulation. The main task now is to transform accumulations into investments, including in the production sphere.

At the same time there is no opportunity to increase state investments in 1994. The country is still experiencing an acute investment crisis which it will take time to overcome.

3. A concept of taxation stimulating the development of production should be elaborated.

The Russian Federation president issued edict No 1004 of 23 May 1994 "On Certain Questions of Tax Policy," under which the government is instructed to prepare draft laws envisaging a decrease in the number of taxes, a reduction of 10-20 percent in the rates of the main taxes levied on enterprises, and other measures.

A government commission headed by A.N. Shokhin, deputy chairman of the government, is working to prepare a tax reform. The blueprint for tax reform has been prepared and submitted to the government.

4. The conditions for exercising property owners' rights and forming a competitive environment should be created.

The past period has seen the adoption of the president's edict "On Protecting Investors' Rights." The draft law "On Natural Monopolies," which is designed to strengthen controls on them, has been prepared and submitted to the State Duma.

At the same time, the reliable protection of property owners' rights requires the adoption of the Civil and Commercial Codes, on which work continues, and a number of other legislative acts. The most important thing here is to strengthen and improve the quality of the work of the judicial system and law enforcement organs, which will take time.

5. The structural reorganization of the economy should be developed, the intention being to overcome structural deformations, to adapt to effective demand with the minimum losses and problems, and to integrate the Russian economy and the world economy.

This is another long-term task that can be resolved only over a number of years.

Over the past period a decision has been adopted on earmarking 4 percent of federal budget spending for support to enterprises in the crisis conditions.

The current slump in production is to a great extent caused by the adjustment of production to effective demand. However, this is predominantly an uncontrolled process, so it has not been possible thus far to minimize the resultant problems and losses.

Despite the fact that the rate of the slump has decreased considerably, it remains today the most difficult problem.

The president and the government are taking measures to stabilize production, primarily through support for promising production units and private and foreign investment. At the same time it cannot be said that a breakthrough has now been achieved here.

The president and the government are also taking measures to open up foreign markets to Russian producers. The agreement with the European Union signed by the president in Corfu should be noted in this connection.

6. Acceptable economic conditions for the functioning of the agro-industrial complex should be created and reforms in the countryside should be implemented primarily on the basis of economic methods, with administrative measures being excluded as far as possible.

The agro-industrial complex remains in a difficult position. The state is supporting it as far as possible as one of the main priorities. Suffice it to say that the agro-industrial complex is the biggest recipient of subsidies from the budget. There are also problems.

These were discussed at the president's meeting with representatives of agrarian workers, and the president gave instructions on work on them.

At the same time the slump in agriculture is smaller than in other sectors. Agrarian reform is making poor headway, and one of the reasons for this is clearly that no administrative measures are being taken.

Recently the position of the agrarian workers has become more politicized, and their demands regarding subsidies and preferential credits not only threaten the entire economy but are disastrous for agriculture itself.

7. Measures should be taken to eliminate budget debts and to ensure the payment of wages.

So far it has not been possible to secure any substantial shifts on this question. What is more, the situation has deteriorated. (A separate memorandum has been prepared for the Conciliation Commission.)

However, pay arrears are only partly attributable to budget debts. They are more connected with the sales crisis and nonpayments.

A government commission headed by O. Soskovets, first deputy chairman of the government, is currently working on the nonpayments problem.

8. An active social policy aimed at stabilizing and subsequently improving living standards should be implemented...

The president and the government are pursuing precisely such a policy in an endeavor to resolve the tasks set in the Treaty on Social Accord. It has been possible to achieve a slight reduction in the incomes differentiation of the population. Savings are increasing. The president's edicts on housing certificates and housing credits will help to solve the housing problem.

At the same time the state's potential for implementing an active social policy is closely linked to the dynamics of production and the condition of the budget. This potential is currently very limited.

9. A Federal Program To Promote Employment should be elaborated.

This program has been elaborated and was approved by government decree No 683 of 15 June 1994.

We would like to note that the country is at the hardest phase of the transitional period. The government is by no means always capable of coping with the extremely difficult problems emerging on all sides. One of the aims of the Treaty on Social Accord is to make these problems easier to solve and not to inflame the atmosphere surrounding them. However, there have already been many cases where the first thing parties to the treaty have done when they have run up against difficulties has been to state that they intend to withdraw their signature from the treaty. But the point of signing was to seek solutions together.

The Conciliation Commission should speak out about this.

Section III of the Treaty: Strengthening the Federal Structure

Questions of strengthening Russia's federal structure are of particularly great importance to the president and his staff. This has been directly reflected in the attention that the president has paid to personal visits to a whole series of regions of the country in the spring and summer of this year. Nevertheless, it must be acknowledged that implementation of the provisions of this third section of the treaty is extremely uneven. Some provisions are being "implemented" by life itself. For instance, no federal acts of any importance have been adopted to strengthen the unity of Russia's economic and political space, but unquestioned progress has been achieved in this sphere because the very mechanism of market relations has gradually rendered ineffective almost all measures by the local authorities that attempted to set up customs houses on their own administrative borders.

In other spheres extremely active work has begun right now. A special major draft law on local self-government is being prepared for the State Duma. After it was discussed in July at the Expert Analytical Council under the Russian Federation president the draft was referred for additional work. Meanwhile not only legislative acts but an entire system of organs of local self-government has already been set up in the regions. You get the impression that regional norm-creation is a long way ahead of the federal drafters, but this is no great disaster; on the contrary, this can be seen as an indication of the particular effectiveness of the treaty, which in theory was addressed not only or not so much to power structures as to the citizens of Russia, and in this case directly helped them to advance the democratization of the country in this sphere.

A similar situation also obtains in the sphere of the elaboration of charters and constitutions in Federation components. This work has now passed the initial, preparatory stage, when there were many cases of direct contacts between regional drafters, there was an active exchange of experience between regions, there were interregional conferences, and so forth. A danger arose that the process would take place without proper coordination with the federal authorities and, most importantly, with the federal constitution. However, in the summer the Presidential Staff sharply stepped up its activeness in this sphere (primarily via the State-Legal Administration) and held several conferences of regional leaders, and the State-Legal Administration prepared a so-called model charter of a Federation component, which was sent out to the regions and met with a largely positive response as a recommendatory document (not a directive, of course). This work continues, and seminars for the drafters of charters are planned. The analysis center is arranging the participation of foreign specialists on federalism.

A treaty on the demarcation of powers and spheres of responsibility with Bashkortostan was signed in August. In the wake of the similar treaty with Tatarstan this was one more step to implement the point in the "section on strengthening the federal structure. [no closing quotation mark as published] However, this treaty evoked a sharply negative reaction in certain Russian regions, and the Perm Oblast Administration actually made an open demarche, threatening to withdraw its signature to the treaty [on social accord] if similar treaties [to that with Bashkortostan] continue, in its opinion, to discriminate against the Russian regions. This situation may develop into a constitutional crisis, and, although it will scarcely become large-scale, the Presidential Staff intends to embark immediately on the legal regulation of this "misunderstanding"; the analysis center has already provided detailed explanations in the general press in this regard. The Presidential Staff continues to stick firmly to the course of providing every support to processes originating "from below" in the formation of new mechanisms for collaboration between federal and regional organs of power and management.

The main way of resolving the difficulties to which the Perm Oblast leadership reacted lies in developing budget federalism. By way of implementation of the treaty with a view to expanding the economic autonomy of Federation components (Point 4 of Section III), a transition to the principles of budget federalism has already begun. It is proposed to establish uniform rules for the allocation of budget income and expenditure and to abandon individual normatives in the distribution of tax revenue (this is precisely the practice that the Perm Oblast leadership was complaining about).

However, considerable difficulties should be expected to appear here, because this transition is at odds with the process that has now begun of concluding individual treaties between components and the Federation in which the normatives for tax payments are usually a key question and are resolved separately on each occasion.

For its part the Federal Assembly is preparing a whole package of draft laws on the division of powers between the legislative and executive branches at the regional level. At present it is hard to judge the quality of this package, but the very fact of work in this direction is a step toward implementing the provisions of the treaty.

In the light of the third section of the treaty, the fact that the danger of the disintegration of Russian statehood has now clearly passed can be regarded as the most gratifying result. So the alarm voiced by the parties to the treaty in Section III, Point 3 regarding Russia's state integrity has lost its topicality.

The least elaborated "instructions" in the treaty include the fragment incorporated in Point 5 at the demand of trade union delegates (regarding a single labor market), and also the very important wish that the federal level more vigorously take on the task of coordinating the regions' efforts to resolve interregional tasks. The first of these "instructions" should be referred back to the very initiators of its inclusion in the treaty, namely the trade unions. The second "instruction" is addressed more to the regions themselves than to the federal level. It must be remarked here that there has been a practically total absence of any direct statements from the regions regarding needs for such assistance from the federal authorities. Nevertheless, it would be expedient to instruct the Ministry of Nationalities Affairs and Regional Policy to initiate work in this direction.

A good response to this could be the elaboration of Russia's regional strategy as a federal-level document called upon to provide for forms of activity by the federal authorities to resolve regional tasks transcending the bounds of the potential of individual regions. Work in this sphere has now begun. Preparation of two options for regional strategy has already been completed in the aforementioned ministry and the president's Analysis Center. The president personally set out the general outlines of this strategy when granting a lengthy interview to TRUD (26 August), and the first, extremely constructive reactions to it from the regional authorities and public are already coming in. Moreover, elaboration of the conceptual foundations for federal measures to assist depressed regions has been completed, and the Analysis Center has already published brief information about this in the general press and has begun to receive reactions from local level. Next in line is the elaboration of similar documents for so-called locomotive regions. It can be hoped that by the end of this year this work will have acquired the outlines of draft laws and draft government decrees or presidential edicts.

The Federal Assembly's slight sluggishness in elaborating laws on the general principles of power in Federation components (Point 2) is also causing concern. Such laws are of particular importance because negative processes are under way at local level which are destroying the system of the separation of powers and giving the executive branch, as in the recent past, incomparably greater real clout than the representative branch. Furthermore, without these laws it is extremely difficult to complete work on charters.

On the whole progress in implementing this section of the treaty can be assessed as positive.

Section IV of the Treaty: National Relations

The course enshrined by the treaty of "development of the multinational Russian society in a climate of dialogue and the peaceful solution of conflicts" and the renunciation of exclusive rights for any nation to the detriment of the rights of other nations and peoples is bearing fruit.

Appreciable progress has been achieved in resolving the most painful conflict on the Russian Federation's territory—the Ossetian-Ingush conflict. In the course of a personal meeting between the presidents of North Ossetia and Ingushetia it proved possible at long last to reach agreement on the procedure for the return of Ingush refugees to Prigorodnyy Rayon.

The treaties on the demarcation of spheres of responsibility between federal organs of power and the organs of power of the republics of Tatarstan, Kabardino-Balkaria, and Bashkiria [Bashkortostan] were also an embodiment of the ideas of social accord. These treaties, by strengthening the sense of sociopolitical stability in the republics and throughout the Federation, helped to improve interethnic relations.

The ideas of political and interethnic accord enshrined in Moscow are also spreading to the regions. For instance, the Tuva leadership has put forward the suggestion of signing a republic treaty on accord. The practice of concluding bilateral treaties on friendship and cooperation between various Federation components is becoming increasingly widespread, and in particular Stavropol Kray has signed such treaties with Karachayevo-Cherkessia, Dagestan, Kabardino-Balkaria, and Ingushetia. As a result of bilateral talks, there has been progress recently in resolving a number of contentious problems in relations between regions, for instance, the problem of returning to Stavropol Kray the lands leased from it by Dagestan for several decades.

The ideas of achieving social accord on a treaty basis are also getting through at the intraregional level. In Karachayevo-Cherkessia, where the situation has deteriorated in recent months, a number of public and political movements ("Rus," the "Cossack Circle," the Peasant Party of Russia, "Russia's Democratic Choice," "Mothers," and so forth) prepared a joint statement calling for dialogue and cooperation—a kind of "mini-treaty" on social accord.

At the same time, the situation in the Chechen Republic remains a serious factor destabilizing the situation in the North Caucasus and in Russia as a whole. The Chechen crisis also could have been solved by establishing treaty relations between the Chechen Republic and the federal authorities. However, the development of the internal conflict and the polarization of forces inside the Chechen Republic have gone so far that none of the warring groups in Chechnya can now consolidate Chechen society and speak in the name of the Chechen Republic, including conclude treaty relations with the Russian Federation leadership. Nevertheless, the Russian leadership is seeking ways of resolving the conflict in Chechnya on the basis of contacts with all political forces.

Section V of the Treaty: Morality, Science, Education, and Culture

With a view to helping to preserve the system of free basic and complete secondary education, elementary vocational training, and secondary specialized and vocational education, the Russian Federation president's edict No 1487 of 8 July 1994 "On Guarantees of the Rights of Russian Federation Citizens To Receive Education" provides for preserving the former procedure for receiving free secondary (complete) general and elementary education in state and municipal educational institutions.

The Russian Federation Government decree No 407 of 28 April 1994 "On Priority Measures To Support the Education System in Russia" provides for the regular and steady earmarking of appropriations to fund state educational institutions [and] the elaboration of proposals for the social support of students in secondary and higher vocational education and for the exemption from taxation in 1994-1995 of the funds of legal entities and physical persons channeled gratis into educational institutions, and also resource support for secondary and higher education.

In respect of the section concerning students, pupils, and postgraduates at higher educational institutions the president's edict No 1110 of 30 May 1994 "On Increasing the Size of Compensation Payments to Certain Categories of Citizens" should also be regarded as a measure to help preserve the system of basic and complete secondary, specialized, and vocational education.

The president's directive No 295-rp of 10 June 1994 set up the Council on Youth Affairs under the Russian Federation president and approved the statute on the council.

In order to provide incentives for the activities of workers in the education sphere the president's edict No 1144 of 6 June 1994 institutes prizes for the winners of the "Russian Teacher of the Year" competition, and also prizes for the pupils of schools that win international olympiads.

With a view to preventing the collapse of Russian science and making sensible use of Russian scientific potential for the benefit of the whole people, the following measures guaranteeing budget funding of scientific potential have been implemented.

In implementation of presidential edict No 939 of 22 June 1994 "On Russian Federation State Scientific Centers, a government decree of 5 June 1994 [date as published] conferred the status of state scientific center on 10 scientific organizations. At present there are a total of 42 such centers.

In order to improve the nonbudgetary system for stimulating scientific activity and making practical use of scientific results in society's life presidential directive No 283-rp of 7 August 1994 increases the size of state prizes in the sphere of science and technology to 10 million rubles each. In 1994 the prizes were awarded in conformity with presidential edict No 1187 of 10 June 1994.

The Russian Federation Government also supported Russian science in the form of shared participation in funding the program of long-term grants for scientific research in the former USSR implemented by the International Scientific Foundation; the overall budget of the program of 3,500 grants, 60 percent of which are for Russian scientific collectives, is $75 million, and the fund's contribution is $62.5 million while the contribution of the Russian Federation Government is $12.5 million.

In implementation of the Russian Federation president's edict No 726 of 21 May 1993 "On Russian Scientific and Cultural Centers Abroad" the government adopted decree No 994 of 29 August 1994 "On Organizing the Activity of Russian Scientific and Cultural Centers Abroad" which approves the statute on such centers and gives instructions to hold talks with the governments of a number of countries on concluding intergovernmental agreements on creating Russian scientific and cultural centers on their territory on a basis of reciprocity.

A Russian Federation Government decree of Facilities in the Scientific and Technical Sphere" has been adopted which approves the statute on the privatization of facilities in this sphere and gives instructions to ministries and departments to elaborate a number of normative acts, in particular regarding the procedure for including intellectual property among intangible assets. [sentence as published; words apparently dropped]

The president's edict No 1161 of 6 June 1994 institutes a new state prize—the Pushkin Prize for poetry.

With respect to providing legislative support for the preferential taxation of scientific, cultural, and educational institutions, the president and the government have taken the following actions:

Presidential edict No 1337 of 27 June 1994 exempts institutions and organizations in culture and art, cinematography, and archive services and circus enterprises and organizations from the mandatory sale of a proportion of hard currency proceeds.

Government decree No 651 of 5 June 1994 exempts a number of scientific research institutions and Russian Federation ministries and departments from property tax.

However, there has still been no real headway on the introduction of tax breaks for scientific, cultural, educational, and health care institutions envisaged by the Social Treaty [title as published], which is a matter of exceptionally great importance to these institutions. Nor has the law on charitable activity and charitable organizations been adopted.

The measures adopted on Section VI of the Social Treaty are local and do not cover all points. There is an urgent need to elaborate and adopt an integral action program regarding this section.

Zaveryukha, Lapshin Patch Up Differences

MK1309084094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Gleb Cherkasov under the "A Pastoral" rubric: "There Is No Split Among the Agrarians. Aleksandr Zaveryukha Has Forgotten Personal Offenses"]

[Text] The board of the Agrarian Party Central Council yesterday held a meeting attended by representatives of the Agrarian Union, a sectoral trade union, and also Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Zaveryukha and Agriculture Minister Viktor Khlystun. During the meeting the rift between Aleksandr Zaveryukha and the leaders of the Agrarian Party of Russia [APR], which appeared to be emerging, seemed to be healing.

It is well known that at the All-Russia Agricultural Congress, which was held 25 August, APR Chairman Mikhail Lapshin demanded the president's and the government's resignation, and at a news conference the next day he suggested that Mr. Zaveryukha should make up his mind as to whether he is "with the peasants or with the regime." The deputy prime minister was swift to do so, reproaching the APR leader during his regional tour for being extremist. Moreover, Mr. Zaveryukha thought it necessary to state that Russian peasants need a different, 'centrist' party. APR representatives, sort of dumbfounded by their fellow-deputy's statements, said they would consider his line of conduct at the next meeting.

According to APR spokesman Pavel Yemelin, participants in the meeting discussed "in a friendly way" the situation that has come about in the party following the August exchange of courtesies between the APR leader and the deputy prime minister. Speakers made a point of emphasizing that the demand about the government resignation was not aimed against Mr. Zaveryukha, but, on the contrary, was made in support of the stance he holds. For his part, the vice premier would not demand full satisfaction, saying that for the sake of the common cause he would not carry personal offenses to business relations. "I have always been and will remain an agrarian," Aleksandr Zaveryukha stressed. According to the general view of the participants in the meeting, there is no split in the Agrarian Party, nor are there any signs that it could occur.

Agrarian Party Denies Split

LD1209205494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1830 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] The Agrarian Party of Russia (APR) did not and could not split during the 18 months of its existence, its 200,000 membership differ only on the criticism of a government leading the country into an abyss, was the conclusion made by the APR ruling body which held a three-and-a-half hour discussion Monday on the results of the National Peasant's Meeting which culminated in a rally in Moscow on August 25.

Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Zaveryukha responded to the meeting's demand that he resign by accusing some of the party leaders of being estranged from the rank and file and the party group, of which he is a member in the lower house, of obstructing land reform.

Some members of the APR ruling body appreciated the difficulty of working in a pack of wolves, their description of the Russian government, while others accused Zaveryukha of betraying the peasants' interests.

State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin, who was also elected on the APR ticket, was accused of describing signs of stabilization in the farming sector while the APR leaders believed that Russia was turning into a colony.

At the end of the discussion Zaveryukha withdrew his statements of a split in the party but said it did exist in the Russian farming sector and the peasants' movement. He called for starting a broad agrarian movement which should incorporate fishers, forest wardens and workers of other sectors and offices as well as peasants.

Reliable sources told Interfax that Zaveryukha's headquarters was drafting the platform of such a movement and starting its formation with aid from the country's regions.

Economic Issues

Government Late in Submitting 1995 Budget

LD1209172494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1335 GMT 12 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow September 12 TASS—The Russian government is late with working out a draft law on a federal budget for 1995, according to members of the Committee of the State Duma for Budget, Taxes, Banks and Finances.

"We are fearing that the terms of submitting this most important document to the parliament will be violated as it was the case before," chairman of the committee Mikhail Zadornov told ITAR-TASS today.

He explained that the draft law on the federal budget for 1995 had not yet been considered by the government although in accordance with the legislative act adopted by the State Duma it should be submitted to the chamber not later than October 1.

The government also delays the terms of submitting two other necessary documents which regulate the procedure of preparing a bill on the budget, specifically, a forecast of the social and economic development of the country for the next year, Mikhail Zadornov said.

Soskovets-Led Panel Views Energy Debts

MM1209160994 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 10 Sep 94 p 2

[ITAR-TASS report: "Heavy Unpaid Debts"]

[Text] Measures aimed at eliminating the payments crisis in the fuel and energy complex were discussed at a session of the Russian Federation Government Operations Commission for Improving the System of Payments and Transactions held yesterday under the leadership of First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets.

Fuel and energy complex sectors were instructed to devote special attention to using promissory notes in their transactions with one another, attracting the funds of the population and banks for investment, organizing a wholesale market for electricity, reducing their own expenditure per unit of production, and also to speeding up the creation of transnational companies and joint enterprises with the CIS states.

In addition, it is planned to withdraw electricity-generating capacities from the structure of the "Yedinaya energeticheskaya sistema Rossii" ["Unified Power System of Russia""] Russian joint-stock company.

Lev Ryabev, Russian Federation deputy minister of atomic energy, announced that the sector's enterprises are ready to make a 30-percent reduction in electricity tariffs for those consumers who guarantee payment in full.

Government To Make Private Investment Guarantees

LD1209204194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1830 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Russia's government is ready to make guarantees for private capital investments in the economy, acting Finance Minister Sergey Dubinin said.

The Finance Ministry has been authorized to provide guarantees for a total private investment of 800 billion rubles, Dubinin told the Financial Information Agency on Friday. He said there was a plan to set up a consortium of medium-sized and smaller banks, which was to issue bonds to this sum. The money would be channeled into projects approved by the Economics Ministry.

Dubinin said any bank that the Central Bank found no fault with could join the consortium, schemes for whose cooperation with the Finance Ministry would be developed as concrete projects were carried out.

The state is making ever smaller allocations for the economy, Dubinin said. While several years ago state capital accounted for 95 percent of all investments, the proportion may ultimately come down to 20 percent, Dubinin said.

Military & Space Issues

Grachev Outlines Plans for Withdrawn Troops

LD1209203794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1857 GMT 12 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Smolensk September 12 TASS—An additional four billion roubles was allocated by Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev on Monday for the construction of a compound for a Russian infantry division which had been withdrawn from Estonia and which began to be accommodated near Yelnya, Smolensk region, only this year. The defence minister said at an hours-long meeting with the division's officers that he intended to help the division to handle its social problems.

Grachev said the infantry division deployed near Yelnya and a tank division at Boguchary, Voronezh region, required additional care. The minister described the two divisions of the Moscow Military District as "moved into an empty field," while other Russian units have already settled in military compounds after their coming home.

The defence minister's close attention to the troop settlement in central Russia is underlined by the need for a powerful troop conglomerate on the Russian Western military theater. The minister stressed that the Moscow and North Caucasian Military Districts were previously used mainly to reinforce border districts and Russian Armies based abroad, while now these districts have autonomous combat assignments.

The defence minister is sure that all Russian troops which were withdrawn from Eastern Europe and the newly-independent states will be completely deployed in new areas by 1996 to start combat training.

Grachev on Monday met the Smolensk regional administration, and lecturers and students of the city's air defence academy of Russian land troops.

Early on Monday, the defence minister will leave Smolensk for Nizhny Novgorod to examine local units and visit the all-Russian exhibition "Weapons and Military Equipment."

Moscow-Based Special Force Being Created

LD1209163494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1319 GMT 12 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Smolensk September 12 TASS—A powerful military formation able to autonomously carry out battle missions is being created on the base of the Moscow military district, ITAR-TASS was told today by Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev.

Grachev arrived in Smolensk today for a review of Moscow military district troops and to meet with the personnel of the 144 Motorized Infantry Division, which is stationed in Yelnya. The infantry division had earlier been withdrawn from Estonia with the purpose of forming a powerful force in the Western military theatre, Grachev said.

The defence minister said the Moscow military district had earlier been considered to belong to the back-up sphere. "Now it has different tasks. The district should autonomously carry out military missions," he said.

According to Grachev, the personnel of the 144 division deserve praise for being able to quickly and comfortably relocate its regiments and subdivisions. He noted that the city administration of Yelnya has a good relationship with the military personnel quartered in the area.

The Russian defence minister said that all the problems caused by the rapid relocation of large groups of Russian troops from abroad would be completely resolved by the end of 1996.

Grachev plans to meet with the Smolensk regional administration today as well as with the teachers and students of the Anti-Aircraft Defence Academy.

On Tuesday morning the defence minister is scheduled to fly to Nizhniy Novgorod, where he will visit, among other things, the all-Russia "arms, military technology, conversion" exhibition. Further on in his trip, Grachev will also visit Voronezh and Mozhaysk.

Border Operation Targets Aliens, Contraband

MM1209152594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Sep 94 First Edition p 8

[Report by Andrey Lvov: "The Border Is Not a Washing Line"]

[Text] A major border operation conducted by border guards, customs officials, and militia forces along the whole line of the Russian-Ukrainian border ended recently. The operation was code-named "Zaslon" ["Barrier"].

Our correspondent was told at the Russian Federation Border Troops Press Center that "Zaslon" was a targeted [chastnyy] border operation. This form of border protection is comparatively recent, and it started to be employed only in the middle of this year. Before Ukraine, a similar operation was tried out successfully in Kaliningrad Oblast and at sea. Practice has shown that, despite the considerable forces involved in them, the end effect is most tangible.

Incidentally, before putting the "Zaslon" plan into effect, the Russian side reported its actions to Ukrainian border guards, who also participated in additional protection of the joint border, but on the other side.

Targeted border operations in the near abroad are not aimed at restricting contacts between Ukrainian and Russian relatives in adjacent oblasts. The chief thing is to prevent the unhindered passage across them of persons with "third-country" citizenship, and the smuggling of currency, weapons, and drugs—in short, everything that is criminal.

Today forces of the Western Group of Russian Federation Border Troops are stationed along the Russian-Ukrainian border, and they have three major border posts here—"Rostov-na-Donu," "Belgorod," and "Bryansk"—and 35 major checkpoints. Of course, checkpoints are located on main highways, and on ordinary days they are simply unable to monitor circuitous and country roads. Therefore it proved very inopportune for many violators when both troop patrols—"high-visibility"—and task-group forms of border protection—"secrets"—began to be used in the course of "Zaslon." Hence the decent "catch"—"aliens," weapons, drugs, dollars, foodstuffs—everything that is prohibited.

In light of the success scored in catching violators and contraband, it is possible to assume that, on getting a taste for it, border troops will take to setting up "Zaslons" also on other borders with the former fraternal republics. For, without training, a border guard stagnates and loses vigilance, while dogs lose their sense of smell. But the Border Troops Press Center declined to confirm our supposition. Although it did admit that the present targeted operation is not the first nor the last. This is because a border, wherever it passes, is not a washing line which everyone can cross. If these are the rules that have been adopted, this means that it is necessary to "play" by them....

Cosmonauts Complete Four-Hour Space Walk

LD1309092594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0916 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Veronika Romanenkova and Viktor Gritsenko]

[Text] Moscow September 13 TASS—Russian cosmonauts Yuriy Malenchenko and Talgat Musabayev left their "Mir" space station at 10.31 hours Moscow time (06.31 GMT) for a four-hour space walk to inspect various devices outside the station.

The captain and the engineer have to check various joints and electric cable links, as well as the state of solar batteries which are soon to be replaced. They will also inspect the 14-metre long "Sofor" construction on which a rocket engine is mounted.

On September 9 the cosmonauts made another space walk to find out whether the station had sustained any damage during unsuccessful docking with a cargo space ship. The "Progress-M24" transport ship managed to dock with "Mir" only at third attempt. The cosmonauts discovered no serious damage in the heat-protecting coating of the station. Some scratches were left which demand no repairs.

Experts of the Mission Control Centre continue to discuss the unsuccessful docking attempts. Some of them simply say that "equipment may sometimes go faulty," but others insist that the quality of space equipment can not be judged by "earthly parametres".

Last year commander of the Russian aerospace forces Vladimir Ivanov said that the number of claims in the preparation of boosters had increased.

The "Progress-M" cargo ship was designed especially for docking with the "Mir" space station. In 1991 it twice managed to dock with it only at third attempt.

Moscow Has Potential To Lead in Space Market

LD1209174694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1300 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] The scientific research, industrial and personnel basis of the Russian space industry is sufficient for ensuring Russia's strong positions on the world market for space goods and services, experts of the Moscow Space Club said in their report to be submitted to the Russian government.

Experts said they believe that Russia has not yet taken its appropriate place in this sphere in as it has carried out only 3% of all commercial launches of space crafts in the world since the early 1990's.

One of the report's authors, Professor Grigoriy Khozin said that, according to Western experts, the USSR and then Russia have been spending at least 2% of the GNP ($22 billion) on its space program, compared to 0.5% in the U.S. ($30 billion).

However, despite such expenditures, Russia remains uncompetitive on the space market because this depends on efficient implementation of a single state policy in this sphere and appropriate political and economic measures for ensuring privileges in the tax and investment sphere for participants in the space program.

The Moscow Space Club unites cosmonauts, scientists, experts and businesspeople.

Regional Affairs

Army Paper Views Anti-Dudayev Measures

MM1309093594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Petr Karapetyan: "Russian Laws Ignored in Chechnya"]

[Text] The Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office has instituted criminal proceedings in respect of evidence of mass murders on the territory of Chechnya.

A specially disseminated statement by Acting General Prosecutor Aleksey Ilyushenko announces that the constitutional bases of the statehood and national security of Russia, as well as human and civil rights are being grossly flouted by Groznyy. The statement emphasizes that "Russian laws are being ignored, disregarded, and overlooked" in Chechnya. The attention of the federal organs of power is drawn to the need for effective measures to restore law and order in the republic.

Moscow, meanwhile, is pursuing a policy of localizaing the conflict. A decision has already been made on the construction of a railroad bypassing Chechen territory. This will put an end to the pillaging of freight trains and rolling stock transiting the republic. It is likely that stringent restrictions on trade with Chechnya will be introduced, but Moscow's relations with the Interim Council will not alter, and financial support to the regions controlled by the opposition for the payment of wages and pensions will continue.

This, of course, has nothing in common with an economic blockade (beyond any doubt, this is precisely how Groznyy sees it). Obviously, Moscow is gradually defining its stance in selecting methods for influencing the development of the situation in Chechnya, while it is also taking the necessary measures against the terrorist acts often promised by Dzhokhar Dudayev. Admittedly, only time will tell whether these measures will be commensurate with the degree of danger.

'No Doubt' Dudayev Will Attack Opposition

MM1209145794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Sep 94 First Edition p 1

[Report by correspondent Lyudmila Beldyugina under the "Concerning Events in Chechnya" rubric: "Fiddling While Rome Burns"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Groznyy contests the figure for casualties suffered in the fighting at Argun as reported by the world's mass media. According to a CHECHENPRESS report, the figures were as follow: Six of Labazanov's gunmen killed and around 50 taken prisoner. Dudayev's army, it claims, suffered no loss.

This is what Groznyy would have you believe, and it has apparently decided to put a stop to any information getting out of Chechnya that does not coincide with the official version. A few days ago a statement was issued in Groznyy by the country's best-known dissident, the writer and political scientist Abdurakhman Avtorkhanov, who now lives in Munich: He expressed his "indignation at the campaign of lies and calumny mounted against the Chechen people in the Russian press." The grandchildren of those exiled to Central Asia in cattle waggons in 1944 will know how to defend the freedom of independent Chechnya with guns in their hands, Avtorkhanov stated.

But they are not only unhappy with the Russian press in Groznyy. CHECHENPRESS listed to your ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA correspondent states and publications "which are also mudslingers." These are the Bulgarian, Serbian, and Ukrainian press plus the BBC and REUTER. The most objective press, in official Groznyy's opinion, is found in the Baltic states, Sweden, and Finland. Special indignation is aroused by the Spanish press, which has taken an anti-Chechen turn since Kozyrev's visit there. The republic prosecutor's office has instituted criminal proceedings against Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev; V. Lozovoy, leader of the Interim Administration for the State of Emergency Zone of South Ossetia and Ingushetia; and other officials for "subversive actions against Chechnya."

The success of the Argun operation has encouraged Dudayev. Local analysts have no doubt that Groznyy will try to repeat its success by attacking Tolstoy-Yurt, the fiefdom of Ruslan Khasbulatov, and Urus-Martan, location of the bases of the former mayor of Groznyy, Beslan Gantemirov, to be followed up by an inevitable attack on Nadterechye.

The opposition leaders are clearly worried: endless consultations and conferences are under way. According to CHECHENPRESS information, Khasbulatov made a statement on the opposition's television channel the day before yesterday: The Dudayev regime can be toppled only with the help of Russian troops, and he, "as a Russian," very much hopes for Russia's help.

The Interim Council's military chiefs are probably getting ready to wage a final and decisive battle against Dudayev, seeking to steal the offensive initiative from him.

Alas, civil war has been launched in Chechnya. How far will its flames, which won't, of course, be contained within the bounds of long-suffering Chechnya, spread?

Government Troops Massing Near Rebel-Held District

LD1209141094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1033 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Chechen government troops are concentrating on the borders with the Nadterechny District where the main forces of the opposition Provisional Council are based, INTERFAX was told by head of the Provisional Council Zaindi Choltayev.

He said that the mass media controlled by the Dudayev regime continues to brainwash the population. Groznyy TV continuously broadcasts addresses by the chief of staff of the Chechen armed forces to the villagers with appeals to abandon the villages where the opposition forces are stationed.

Nevertheless, said Choltayev, people from the zones controlled by the opposition remain. On the contrary there is flow of migration from Groznyy to rural areas, he claimed.

Chechnya Events Cause Refugee Problem for Stavropol

MM1309091194 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 10 Sep 94 p 2

[ITAR-TASS report: "Fleeing Chechnya"]

[Text] The already large stream of refugees from Chechnya into the cities, villages, and Cossack stanitsas of Stavropol has trebled in recent days. The increase in the stream of refugees, as an analysis conducted by the Cossacks shows, is connected with the fact that Chechnya's civilian population has found itself in difficult conditions as a result of military activities undertaken by Dzhokhar Dudayev in a bid to defend his regime.

Things are particularly difficult for Russians living in Chechnya. And it is not just by hearsay that the Stavropol Cossack community can be the judge of this: Today, the building of the ataman governing body in the center of Stavropol is more reminiscent of a "refuge for the hapless," where those who have just succeeded in getting out of Chechnya try to find help initially.

"I have been living in Groznyy's Zavodskiy Rayon for over 40 years, I have a citation for my work at Groznyy's industrial enterprises, I fought in the Great Patriotic War, and I have in my pocket the pension book given to soldiers wounded at the front," 72-year-old Ivan Kozoderov informed us, having escaped from Chechnya to Stavropol. "The money I earned previously was sufficient to build my own private home in Groznyy, but I had to leave it and all my property behind when I fled, which I did because I have been badly beaten up on several occasions, and now they are threatening physical elimination—this is what Dudayev's people have come to, violating the age-old law of the mountain people not to harm anybody weaker than yourself, or anybody who is unarmed," he recounted.

Ivan Kozoderov appealed to the ataman headquarters for advice about how to get equally vulnerable relatives out of Groznyy, including a bedridden invalid sister and her daughter.

The Nechayeva sisters, having also fled the Chechen capital in haste owing to a very real threat to their lives, spent several nights literally in the porch of one of Stavropol's churches. Stavropol has long been inundated with refugees, and as such the problem of accommodations has become difficult to resolve. Fortunately for the Nechayeva sisters, Yekaterina Sharova, a teacher at one of the city secondary schools, dropped in at the Stavropol ataman headquarters and offered the refugees shelter in her apartment free of charge.

In light of the deterioration of the situation in Chechnya, the Stavropol Kray Cossack Union has sent Dzhokhar Dudayev a categorical demand—that he halt the taunting of his own fellow citizens. Otherwise, the Cossacks have declared their right to adopt reciprocal measures in respect of Dudayev's regime, including the organization of an economic blockade with the closure of the transport arteries linking Chechnya with Stavropol.

Shakhray, Shumeyko on Chechen Situation

MM1209135194 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 10 Sep 94 p 1

[ITAR-TASS report under the "CIS: Day by Day" rubric: "Diary of Disintegration"]

[Text] Moscow—In the light of the impossibility of running trains across Chechen territory, the Russian Government has been forced to embark upon the construction of a 78-kilometer railroad from Kizlyar to Karlanyurt, bypassing Chechnya.

In response to an ITAR-TASS request to comment on a statement by Federation Council Speaker Vladimir Shumeyko made 7 September at a press conference in Vilnius about how "the situation in Chechnya would have developed differently if, at the time, Moscow had more resolutely entered into dialogue with Groznyy," Sergey Shakhray declared: "Maybe it would be easier for Vladimir Shumeyko himself to travel to Groznyy and make arrangements on the expediency of holding such talks with Dzhokhar Dudayev, who has plundered military depots, released convicts from prisons, and engaged mercenaries to defend his regime, turning Chechnya in the eyes of the public into a 'springboard for bandits,' and who himself tried to talk with Russia's president in the language of threats and political blackmail."

Regional Representatives Hold Talks in Moscow

LD1209211194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1830 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Regional representatives, at a round table meeting in Moscow, insisted that regions and republics of Russia be given a more extensive and equal rights in shaping relations between the federal and local budgets and that a single taxation policy be pursued.

The representatives recommended that parliament use principles of federalism as a basis for budgetary and taxation laws and asked the president to end the practice of agreements giving regions unequal rights. They decided to call on regional leaders to abandon the practice of "political pressure" in budgetary matters and work out conciliation procedures for resolving disputes. They also advised the Finance and Economics Ministries and the State Taxation Service to use conciliation principles in tackling budgetary and taxation matters and publish information about them.

Tax Breaks for Federation Components Opposed

MK1309083094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Yelena Tregubova in the "Taxes" column: "The Power Bodies Are Ready To Build 'Budget Federalism.' So Far No Agreement Has Been Reached About Concrete Steps"]

[Text] Yesterday at the Federation Council premises a roundtable on matters of improving taxation and budget formulation in Federation components was held, in the course of which representatives of the government, parliament, presidential structures, and leaders of some Federation components "defined their position in advance of parliamentary discussions" of corresponding laws.

Russian Deputy Finance Minister Sergey Aleksashenko hopes that beginning in 1995 "it will be possible to abandon the principle of subjectivism with respect to Federation components and apply a uniform approach toward all republics, krays, and oblasts." According to Aleksashenko, "the demands by some regions for a further increase in the share of basic tax revenues they retain are unwarranted." Today, the deputy minister says, two-thirds of the profit tax, half the value added tax, 100 percent of the individual income tax, and 35 percent of excise duties are retained by local authorities, and "only one of the main taxes—customs payments—are fully remitted to the federal budget." "If federal revenues are cut still further, the Federation will disappear, as was the case in 1991," Aleksashenko stated. According to the Finance Ministry, at present 66 regions (not counting Chechnya) receive subsidies from the federal budget in an amount of between 25 percent to 95 percent of all local financial needs. The deputy finance minister assured that "even if all taxes begin to be retained by the regions today, 53 Federation components will still have to be subsidized."

Participants in the meeting unanimously described the transfer system as "one of the major elements of budget federalism" but regional leaders said the present "inconsistent and uncontrolled" distribution of transfers among Federation components is unacceptable. The Perm Oblast Duma chairman said that in granting transfers to Bashkiria, federal authorities "should take into account" the substantial grain subsidies to this republic from federal funds. "The approach applied by federal authorities," Professor Yevgeniy Yasin said, "should be reminiscent of the IMF approach in issuing credits to Russia: If a republic spends money not for production development but to subsidize prices, it should therefore receive fewer transfers."

The roundtable participants failed to come up with specific recommendations, confining their "final document" to general statements about the "need to enhance the role of Federation components in formulating interbudgetary relations."

Stepashin Meets With N. Ossetia President

LD1009151994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1317 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] During his trip to North Ossetia and Ingushetia, which ended on Friday [9 September], Director of the Federal Counterintelligence Service Sergey Stepashin met with President of North Ossetia Akhsarbek Galazov.

The FCS's press service told Interfax that the talks dealt with ways of settling the Ingush-Ossetian conflict and the return of refugees to the Prigorodny Region. The two officials also discussed ways of preventing the spreading of terrorism in Russia.

The same source reports that on commission from the Russian President, Stepashin will fly out to Germany to continue the talks on the non-proliferation of radioactive materials.

Gaydar in 'Hasty Retreat' from Yekaterinburg Picket

MM1209151694 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 10 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Aleksey Vladykin: "Ye. Gaydar's Appearance Before the People Was Fleeting"]

[Text] Yekaterinburg—Yegor Gaydar, chairman of the "Russia's Choice" democratic party and leader of the State Duma faction of the same name, has been to Yekaterinburg.

Naturally, Yegor Timurovich was asked almost at once whether he is thinking of running for the post of Russian president, and whether this was the reason for his visit. To which Gaydar amiably, with his characteristic directness, chuckled and replied that the goals of his party's program are far wider—to prepare for elections of all organs of power.

On the critical situation in society and the unfavorable forecasts for this fall, the ex-premier assured everyone that such rumors are spread by enemy voices. "There will be no revolution," Ye. Gaydar said, and rubbed his hands with relish. "I say to you that my intuition tells me that the political temperature in society is not high, and the level of political activity is also low. And this is healthy!"

However, we all know perfectly well how his "personal intuition" has let Ye. Gaydar down more than once. The entrance to the oblast administration building was picketed specially for that day by private farmers from Alapayevskiy Rayon. "We Demand Early Elections of the Russian President and Government No Later Than April 1995." "How Long Can You Live Without Pay?" "Pay the Countryside What It Is Owed—90 Billion Rubles!" placards read.

The high-caliber politician is so rated because he knows how to extricate himself from any situation skilfully. Finding a specious pretext, Gaydar beat a hasty retreat.

National Figures Contest Moscow-Area Duma Election

MK1009101094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 10 Sep 94 p 3

[Lyudmila Khlopova, Yekaterina Shlik report: "A Woman Has Joined the Struggle for the Votes of Mytishchi Residents"]

[Text] At least 10 people aspire to the seat of the late Andrey Ayzderdzis. Yesterday the district election commission held a conference devoted to the upcoming elections.

Shakhray's party has also joined the election campaign in the constituency. A session of the Party of Russian Unity and Accord Presidium nominated Ms. Olga Volkova, chief of the Justice Ministry's Constitutional Legislation Directorate, who participated in drafting the new constitution, the laws On the Federal Civil Service, On the Government, On the Federal Executive Power Bodies, and so forth.

The district election commission, however, has so far registered only one candidate: Leonid Barashkov, general director of a local enterprise, Transservis, who has collected more than 6,000 signatures. According to the election commission, signatures to contest the elections are also being raised by Aleksandr Golovachenko, an expert with the Moscow City Administration Pension Department; Vladimir Pribylovskiy, a night watchman; Aleksandr Maksimov, member of the Moscow city government; Viktor Talakhovskiy, aide to a State Duma deputy from the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR]; Mikhail Romantsov, chairman of the Ekologiya-2 cooperative; and Andrey Sidelnikov, president of a financial-industrial company.

Other aspirants include Konstantin Borovoy, figuring in the election commission's official papers as deputy chief designer at the scientific and production association Molniya; and Vil Mirzayanov, as deputy general director of the Moscow National Consumer Rights Protection Foundation. There is a vigorous signature-raising campaign under way in the constituency in support of the candidacy of MMM President Sergey Mavrodi, promoted by company investors and LDPR activists, but so far there are no data about the number of signatures collected.

The possibility of the elections being contested by Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, the Russian president's representative in the state company Rosvooruzheniye, has been denied by sources from the marshal's closest entourage. The district election commission also did not confirm Shaposhnikov's participation in the election campaign.

Kemerovo Oblast Head Meets With Journalists

LD0809141794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Report over video by correspondent L. Panova; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The head of Kemerovo Oblast's administration agreed for the first time in his career to meet the Moscow press and began by describing the region's problems. Mikhail Kislyuk believes that the situation in the Kuzbass (the Kuznetsk coal basin) has stabilized and that it has moved from being a region of chronic strikes to being a creative region.

[Kislyuk] Already—and two years ago, this would have seemed unbelievable—the Kuzbass is self-sufficient in the main foodstuffs and has even begun producing bread grain, which is totally new.

[Panova] Two new mines have been built with the strong support of Rosugolprom (Russian Coal Industry concern) and the Ministry of Fuel and Power Engineering. It is planned that when they start operating, it will be possible to extract 60 million [metric] tons of coal in 1996. This is already a great deal but Mikhail Kislyuk promises that in another two years the Sokolovskoye and Runakovskoye deposits will provide as much coal as the whole of the Kuzbass provides now.

In conclusion, journalists were promised that in the future such meetings with the heads of other Russian regions will be regular events.

Kuzbass Industries Reach Tariff Agreement

MM0809144594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Sep 94 p 4

[Report by Viktor Kostyukovskiy: "Railroad Workers, Metalworkers, Power Workers, and Miners of Kuzbass Fighting Price and Tariff Increases Together"]

[Excerpts] An agreement has been signed in Kemerovo between the Russian Ministry of Railways, the Kemerovo Railroad, coal mining and enrichment enterprises, "Kuzbassenergo," and the Orsk-Khalilovskiy, Western Siberia, and Kuznetskiy Metallurgical Combines on stabilizing tariffs and prices and on cutting reciprocal nonpayments. [passage omitted]

When shipping coal, the railroad workers will give the metalworkers a discount on their going rate; in return, the metalworkers will cut their prices for output supplied to the railroads. Cartel prices and tariffs will also operate when it comes to supplying fuel to power generation enterprises, which, in return, will cut their rates for the energy delivered to the participants in the agreement. All these measures, with specific amounts indicated, will be formulated in multilateral agreements.

The parties to the agreement believe that its implementation will require the resolution at government level of the issue of granting enterprises the right to sell output and services at below cost. [passage omitted]

Khabarovsk Protests Government's Far East Policy

LD1009062794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0240 GMT 10 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Nikolayevsk-na-Amur (Khabarovsk Kray), 10 Sep—Participants in a large rally held in Nikolayevsk-na-Amur today expressed their protest against the government's policy regarding the Far East and its inhabitants. The people of the lower reaches of the Amur river demanded that the president, government, and Federal Assembly should implement fully the Russian law on state guarantees and compensations for those who live and work in areas of the Far North, on freezing prices on basic foodstuffs, introducing a unified tariff for electricity for the whole of Russia, stabilizing prices on housing and communal services, and establishing a minimum wage of no less than 80 percent of the living minimum. A coordinating committee has been set up. Trade union leaders, the heads of major enterprises, representatives of the movement for social justice, and the Russian Communist Party are members of it.

Inhabitants of the town of Sovetskaya Gavan, which is also situated in Khabarovsk kray, held a similar rally.

Kaliningrad Farmers Threaten Strikes

WS0809131394 Kaliningrad KALININGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 12 Aug 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Agrarians Warn That They Are Forced To Strike"]

[Text] The KALININGRADSKAYA PRAVDA editorial staff has received a written statement from the Presidium of the Council Employees of the Agroindustrial Sector and the oblast branch of the Agrarian Party of Russia. The aforementioned organizations appeal to the central and local legislative and executive bodies, trade union members, and all citizens of Kaliningrad Oblast.

The statement emphasizes that rural areas are in catastrophic shape, while the process of destroying the oblast's agricultural sector is inadvertently gaining momentum. The gap between prices for industrial and agricultural products is growing on a daily basis. The state has not been settling accounts for the products manufactured and delivered by farmers. Meanwhile, farmers are being strangled by taxes. Enterprises of the agroindustrial sector continue to exist solely due to centrally allocated credits, and they are already desperately in debt. They have no money, even to pay the miserable wages to their employees, and the latter have not been paid for three to five months.

The wear and tear on capital stock has reached a critical level. The curbing of reclamation and the limited use of fertilizers have led to a decrease in land fertility. Reclamation, construction, and road-building enterprises have virtually ceased to exist because of the lack of funds. The accomplishments in the social sector have been wasted.

The statement points out that agricultural output is declining, and the number of animal husbandry projects are decreasing, given that the latter sector is no longer profitable.

The situation is aggravated by this year's dramatic drought. Crops have been damaged or destroyed on 30 percent of all sowing areas. An acute shortage of grain, fodder, root crops, potatoes, and vegetables is expected.

Central and local administrative bodies have been told many times about the inadmissible state of affairs in the agroindustrial sector. The refusal to resolve these problems has forced farmers to resort to collective actions, including nondeliveries of products and roadblocks. Their demands, however, have not been met.

In light of all this, following a discussion of the situation, it was decided in April to launch coordinated collective actions. Coordinating and strikers committees were formed in rayons, and the oblast agroindustrial sector strikers committee was elected and approved. Farmers' demands have been presented to the oblast legislative and executive bodies.

In line with current laws, sessions of the reconciliatory commission were held to resolve the emerging labor conflict. The Labor Arbitration Commission confirmed the objective nature of problems, as well as the urgent need to resolve them immediately.

Participants in the strikers committee session on 29 July discussed the results of reconciliatory procedures. The latter were declared unsatisfactory, given that the oblast administration had not taken adequate measures to save the sector.

In view of this, it was decided to announce a strike alert in staffs of the agroindustrial complex and begin preparations for a general strike.

The authors of the statement underline that employees of the agroindustrial complex do not demand special treatment or exclusive privileges. Neither do they pit their interests against the interests of all other sectors. This extreme move has been prompted by the complete devastation of rural areas, and by the fact that villagers are devoid of means of subsistence.

The writers of the statement address all the employees of other sectors of the national economy, public associations, political parties and movements, Oblast Duma deputies, and all Kaliningrad residents with a request to support the claims of the employees of the agroindustrial sector. They also voice their hope for understanding on the part of the local administration.

A nationwide congress of the agroindustrial sector will be held in Moscow on 25 August. Solidarity meetings and rallies will be held on that day in all regions of Russia. Kaliningrad agrarians have resolved to picket the oblast administration's office on that day.

Baltic Fleet Winter Preparations Short of Funds

MM1209152994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Sep 94 p 3

[Report by Valeriy Gromak under the rubric "News From Our Correspondents in the Regions": "'Admiral Frost' Not Accepting Excuses"]

[Text] Baltiysk—A conference of representatives of the Baltic Fleet's engineering, construction, and rear services which took place at the fleet's main base was given over to preparations for the winter. This question is very serious. Finance for only 23 percent of work on preparations for the winter within the fleet has been provided. In many cases the fleet is having to find capital on its own to spend the winter in the warm. But you cannot explain to "Admiral Frost" that there was no money.

Yaroslavl Plans To Float Local Securities

MM0709150194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Sep 94 p 1

[Article by Mikhail Berger: "Gaydar's and Yavlinskiy's Ideas Live On and Triumph in the Localities. Each in Its Own Way"]

[Text] Oblast administrations seem to be finding increasingly rational ways of using the autonomy they now have. Whereas relatively recently the only manifestation of this autonomy was to proclaim the oblast to be a republic, now administration heads in a number of oblasts are moving on to strengthening the financial positions of the local authorities. A thoughtfully prepared and correctly placed municipal loan provides far more freedom and opportunities than the proclamation of an oblast constitution.

Nizhniy Novgorod Governor Boris Nemtsov, who issued local bonds two years ago, was the first to sense this (and other things). Admittedly, this was a desperate move brought about by the cash crisis, so the loan was somewhat specific. Nemtsov then remained a "pioneer" for a long time, and it was only this year that he began to have followers. Municipal loans were issued in Perm and Khanty-Mansiysk. And the Yaroslavl Oblast Administration recently decided to issue a local loan.

It makes sense to dwell in more detail on the Yaroslavl loan. The oblast budget was ratified with a 16-percent deficit. It is futile to ask the federal authorities to resolve the resultant problems. So the administration decided to take a nontraditional route. In mid-June a tender was announced for the best draft oblast loan program. The winner received the right to be the general dealer in municipal securities.

Two Yaroslavl firms were victorious—"Yarinterkom-Servis" and "Renova-Invest." From the very outset it was announced that the main purpose of the loan is to fund the oblast's budget deficit and support socially oriented projects. This was a fundamental question since the local industrial lobby was trying to get the receipts channeled into support for regional industry. In some oblasts industrialists managed to win over the administration, casting doubt on the possibility of fulfilling commitments to shareholders. The federal authorities' practice of enterprise support is convincing evidence of that.

Sergey Karpukhovich, head of "Yarinterkom-Servis," and his partners were able to persuade the administration that support for industrial giants is not their priority task. Social policy is the local authorities' main job.

It took just over two months to prepare the loan. Participants in the project attribute this sluggishness not only to the market activity of local administration head Anatoliy Lisitsyn, but also to secret market rivalry between Nizhniy and Yaroslavl. Moreover, the well known economic rivals Grigoriy Yavlinskiy (Nizhniy Novgorod) and Yegor Gaydar (Yaroslavl) are acting as basic consultants to the oblast authorities. Workers at Gaydar's institute have been involved in the project from the very outset. Moreover, the winning firms enlisted financial consultants from Cambridge, Columbia University, and the Russian Academy of Sciences Economics Institute.

Bonds with a face value of 1.5 and 10 million rubles [R] worth a total of R30 billion have already been ordered abroad. Why abroad? Not because we have nowhere to print high-quality securities, Anatoliy Belolipetskiy, a consultant on the project and staffer at the Russian Academy of Sciences Economics Institute, explained, but because the plates of our securities cannot be stolen from a foreign printing plant and thus the likelihood of forgery is zero.

A special feature of the Yaroslavl loan is the fact that it is mainly aimed at corporate entity customers. This is because, in accordance with current legislation, all concessions and guarantees are only designed for corporate entities. The bonds will be auctioned with trading to reduce the interest rate [na auktsione s torgami na snizheniye protsentnoy stavki], which will make it possible to determine the real market value of the securities and evaluate the weight of the concessions granted to investors.

The concessions include benefits when lease applications are being considered and provision of tax holidays in respect of certain categories of local taxes. It may be possible to use bonds as payment when buying municipal property.

Certain foreign banks have already expressed an interest in Yaroslavl's municipal loan. This interest is due to the fact that the local authorities have real property which they are entitled to use as payment for bond debts. But the loan is of particular significance for local enterprises that have spare cash but are cut off from the capital's financial market for a number of objective and subjective reasons.

International Affairs

Moroz on Prospects For Relations With Iran

LD1209144594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1005 GMT 12 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev, 12 Sep—"Cooperation between Ukraine and the Islamic Republic of Iran has great prospects. There are no clear reasons why our relations have not yet developed on any significant scale," Aleksandr Moroz, chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, told the ITAR-TASS correspondent after his meeting with Behzad Mazaheri, Iranian ambassador in the Ukraine. Moroz said Iran occupies a special place in the east and could serve as a bridge linking Ukraine with the countries of the Persian Gulf.

During his meeting held in the framework of the preparation of the working visit to Ukraine of the head of parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran scheduled for the first half of November this year, more constructive cooperation between the two countries was under discussion. Aleksandr Moroz believes that the region is of interest to Ukraine above all as a market for Ukrainian goods. He said in the countries of the Near East agricultural produce and items of machine-building are in great demand.

In his turn, Ukraine is interested in Iran's petrochemical products. The speaker of the Ukrainian parliament expressed the hope that the development of joint projects will promote stabilization not only in the region but also in the whole world.

Jiang Zemin Views Kiev Visit, Reforms

AU1209180694 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 9 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Valentyna Pysanska: "He Who Paves the Road First Will Also Proceed Along It"]

[Text] Head of the Chinese Government Jiang Zemin called the reforms that are being accomplished by the Government of the Chinese People's Republic as "building socialism with Chinese specifics," while specialists worldwide qualify them as a Chinese miracle. Chairman of the PRC Jiang Zemin, who held a news conference for a narrow circle of journalists from several Ukrainian publications—UKRINFORM, Ukrainian Television's First Program, PRAVDA UKRAYINY, and HOLOS UKRAYINY—emphasized that any road is built by people and that those people select a course for it.

Asked by UKRINFORM correspondent Oleksiy Petrunya whether he was satisfied with the results of the visit, PRC Chairman Jiang Zemin pointed out that the visit proper and the meetings with President Leonid Kuchma, Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol, and Chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council Oleksandr Moroz have given a new impetus to Ukrainian-Chinese relations.

I became convinced, stressed Jiang Zemin, that even most advanced means of communication are unable to replace personal and direct contacts. Together with Ukrainian leaders, we have arrived at a single opinion: The relations between our countries must be built with a view to the 21st century, and political and economic cooperation must intensify step by step in the interests of both countries.

The PRC chairman expressed his admiration for Kiev and the surrounding countryside and remarked that autumn in the capital is beautiful, but, with every new spring, he is sure, a turn for the better always takes place.

Ukraine's external policy confirms its interest for partnership relations with countries of the East and West. That is why Ukraine is referred to as a bridge between the West and East. In this connection, asked Ihor Storozhuk, correspondent of the Ukrainian Television's First Program, what are the prospects for cooperation between Ukraine and China?

"Ukraine is a great European state," said Jiang Zemin. "It has unique geographic, political, and economic possibilities. Of course, we strive to develop our relations to the advantage of both Ukraine and China and do it in such a way as to promote the cause of maintaining peace.

Answering a question by the HOLOS UKRAYINY correspondent on how the original Chinese model of market economy fits the framework of socialist construction, PRC chairman Jiang Zemin stressed that he regarded the market economy as a way to improve people's lives.

However, the prominent guest agreed, it is an unprecedented phenomenon to conduct a market economy in conditions of socialist construction. However, it is precisely this model of economic development that the people have opted for in line with their history and traditions.

Of course, to develop market relations, it is necessary to integrate into the international market. There is a common feature in the history of Ukraine and China: Both countries are in the process of a transition from the planned to a market economy, and this involves numerous difficulties. However, the people of the PRC are ready to proceed forward along the road of building socialism with Chinese specifics.

Finally, after the time allocated for the news conference was up, Jiang Zemin answered another question by the HOLOS UKRAYINY correspondent:

"Our forefathers once founded the great 'silk' route. Our contemporaries, without waiting for the politicians' decisions, are repeating it, but under the name of 'commercial tourism.' Chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council Oleksandr Moroz expressed an idea of building a thoroughfare where the 'silk' route once ran. How did you, Mr. Chairman, respond to such an idea? Are you an optimist in this matter?"

"I am an optimist," [said Jiang Zemin]. "From the technical point of view, there are no problems—the will of the people is what matters. I understand the chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament, as whoever paves the road first will also proceed along it first...."

Deputy Premier Kuros Meets Egyptian Ministers

LD1209191094 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1110 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev, 12 Sep—The sojourn by Ivan Kuros, Ukraine's deputy prime minister for humanitarian policy issues and head of the Ukrainian Government delegation at the International Conference for Population and Development in Egypt, where he met the higher leadership and members of the government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, has ended.

During the meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Kuros acquainted him in detail with the socioeconomic and political situation in Ukraine and priorities in the field of domestic and foreign policy. A wide range of issues on the development of Ukrainian-Egyptian relations were discussed. The sides came to a conclusion about the necessity of stepping up political dialogue between Kiev and Cairo and the establishment of regular contacts between the governments and parliaments of the two countries.

Ways of developing Ukrainian-Egyptian cooperation in information were the focus of attention during the meeting between Kuros and Egyptian Information Minister Muhammad Safwat Muhammad Yusuf al-Sharif. The necessity of giving concrete substance to the protocol on cooperation between Ukraine and Egypt in the information sector, signed in December 1992, of searching for new forms of cooperation, and stepping up links between the television and radio broadcasting companies of the two countries was stressed.

Viktor Nahaychuk, charge d'affaires of Ukraine in Egypt [name and title as heard] took part in the conversations with the Egyptian ministers.

The meetings in Cairo demonstrated the desire and readiness of Egypt's leadership to deepen Ukrainian-Egyptian relations in various fields. Ukraine's Foreign Ministry reported this.

Austrian Economist Optimistic About Future Ties

AU1309090894 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 3 Sep 94 p 3

[Valentyna Pysanska report: "It Would Be Sensible To Have Private Property...."]

[Text] This week has not been marked by any special political or economic activity. However, there is no doubt that the visit by a delegation of influential Austrian economic and business functionaries headed by president of the Chamber of Commerce Leopold Maderthaner was one of the most significant events.

Despite the fact that Ukraine's share in the total volume of Austria's external trade is negligibly small: A little more than 0.1 percent of export and 0.2 percent of import (the shares of Eastern European countries are, respectively, 13.4 and 7.6 percent), the interest that business circles of that highly developed country are showing for the Ukrainian market, gives reason to hope that changes in these ratios will come fast.

These changes might, in fact, change over a short period of time, were it not for the hazards awaiting foreign entrepreneurs in Ukraine's legislation. President of the Chamber of Commerce Leopold Maderthaner spoke about this with concern at a meeting with chairman of the Supreme Council Oleksandr Moroz.

"As a matter of fact, the inadequacy of Ukrainian laws and the extremely slow process of privatization," believes Mr. Maderthaner, "generally restrain interest in Ukraine from Western investors. Even if one-half of the total number of enterprises are denationalized, this is not yet privatization," stated the president, "but only partial measures. It would be sensible for Ukraine to have private property," he recommended with feeling.

Despite this, 100 joint Ukrainian-Austrian enterprises are already functioning, and not a single Austrian entrepreneur who found business in Ukraine, has left it. However, of course, no one has endless patience. Notwithstanding all this, the visit by president of the Chamber Leopold Maderthaner, one of Austria's most influential economists and politicians, is a good and promising sign.

In an interview for HOLOS UKRAYINY soon to be published, Mr. Maderthaner stated that he is an optimist regarding Ukrainian-Austrian relations. Even despite the existing problems, he is sure that these relations have a future.

National Affairs

Reportage on Crimean Executive-Legislative Crisis

Kuchma Proposes Solution

LD1209210594 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] We have received a report by the Ukrainian president's press service. Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma met Crimean Supreme Council Chairman Serhiy Tsekov with a group of deputies and held a conversation with Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov. The purpose of the talks was to find a compromise solution to the situation that had developed on the peninsula.

The Ukrainian president warned Meshkov and Tsekov that he would not allow the use of force to resolve the differences between the branches of power in Crimea and emphasized their personal responsibility for the possible consequences of such actions. He drew the Crimean leaders' attention to the fact that the division of powers between the top power bodies should not adopt such threatening forms.

The Ukrainian president stressed that the confrontation was affecting the functioning of Crimea's economic system. If the republic's top officials lacked the wisdom and will to reach immediate understanding, Crimea would face economic destruction and serious difficulties in providing for the elementary needs of Crimeans. Such a course of developments cannot but evoke an appropriate reaction on the part of Ukraine's central authorities, since the normal life of hundreds of thousands of citizens and the security of the state are at stake.

The Ukrainian president suggested that both the president and the Crimean Supreme Council deputies suspend all resolutions on the presidency and the Supreme Council of Crimea, as well as other legislative acts that destabilized the situation. A special conciliatory commission should be set up that, together with a special envoy of the Ukrainian president, would work out proposals on a constitutional settlement of the conflict.

The Ukrainian president said he was convinced that the president and the Supreme Council of Crimea would reach understanding and eventually remember not only their powers but also the electorate who delegated these powers to them and would bring the situation back to normal and thus relieve Ukraine's central authorities of the need to intervene in the course of developments in Crimea.

Aide Views Kuchma Stance

LD1209181394 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Excerpts] The president of Ukraine supports a peaceful solution to the conflict between the branches of power in Crimea, Dmytro Tabachnyk, head of the Ukrainian president's administration, said in an exclusive interview for UKRINFORM on Monday, 12 September. [passage omitted]

Certain media, quoting exclusively Crimean sources and comments by Crimean officials—particularly Viktor Minin, head of the Crimean state affairs service—are making groundless attempts to describe the Ukrainian president as an arbiter or a side in the conflict, Tabachnyk said.

During his week-long stay in Crimea before 4 September, the Ukrainian president met leaders of all of the republic's power branches: Yuriy Meshkov, Serhiy Tsekov, and head of government Yevgeniy Saburov. They spoke about the need for constructive cooperation to solve economic problems. The president, as always, tried to impress upon the leaders that it was important to act exclusively within their legitimate powers.

On return to Crimea on 8 September, following a meeting with an official delegation from China, the Ukrainian president was met at the airport by Saburov, Viktor Mezhak, deputy chairman of Crimea's Supreme Council, the first deputy chairman of Sevastopol City Council, and a number of other officials. President Kuchma responded positively to their request for a meeting to discuss preparations for the winter and other issues. The time of the meeting was set on mutually agreed terms. Saburov asked the Ukrainian president to receive them on 8 or 9 September, according to President Meshkov's instructions. The meeting took place. I was present there from beginning to end and know well what issues were discussed.

Meshkov, Saburov, and Minin, head of the government administration, spoke with the Ukrainian president about stepping up the fight against organized crime and the so-called zero option in the settlement of the Crimean militia dispute. The option—not entirely a new one—was that Meshkov would dismiss Army General Valeriy Kuznetsov, the legally nonexistent Crimean minister of internal affairs, and transfer him to another job unrelated to law enforcement. The Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs would, in its turn, recall Major General Valeriy Chernyshov, head of the main internal affairs directorate in Crimea.

The proposed settlement had been discussed by the Ukrainian president with the president of Crimea and Supreme Council Chairman Tsekov. Both men favored the option stating that this solution would promote stabilization in the autonomy's law enforcement.

The Ukrainian president stressed that there was a very unfavorable and dangerous crime situation in Crimea. Armed attacks and contract killings were too numerous. It was necessary, therefore, to step up the fight against crime, which was acknowledged by everybody.

Also on 8 September, Ukrainian Internal Affairs Minister Volodymyr Radchenko arrived in Crimea for talks on the same subject. He had been instructed by the Ukrainian president and Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz on how to implement the zero option. It was agreed that the head of Crimea's main internal affairs directorate would be appointed by Ukraine's minister of internal affairs, with the consent of the Crimean republic's president. The Crimean executive authorities would nominate the deputy head of the main internal affairs directorate. This would institute a single chain of command, and all of law enforcement would end up under a single command that would allow an effective fight against crime, control of public order, and the protection of the life and peace of all Crimean citizens.

Meshkov Agrees With Kuchma Proposal

WS1309091194 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Late yesterday evening, (Oleksandr Radunkov), first aide to the Ukrainian president, met with Minister

Viktor Minin, chief of the State Affairs Service of the Crimean Republic. Viktor Minin reported that Yuriy Meshkov agreed to Ukrainian President Kuchma's proposals regarding measures to stabilize the political situation in Crimea. He called on Crimean Supreme Council deputies to return to the legal status which had existed until 7 September of this year. On such principles, the Crimean president is ready to begin talks to overcome the constitutional crisis.

Viktor Minin consented that a special proxy of the Ukrainian president should participate in the work a conciliatory commission. Such a step by the Crimean president deserves support and demonstrates the readiness of one side of the conflict to reach a compromise. The Ukrainian president expects that the Crimean Supreme Council will also take a step to meet the other side half- way, and will thus contribute to the elimination of a threat of civil conflict in Crimea and demonstrate its responsibility for [word indistinct] crisis.

Meshkov Says Parliament Rejects 'Zero Option'

LD1209194794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1830 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov not only supports the zero option which Ukraine's Leonid Kuchma proposed, but said that this is what he, Meshkov, had advocated all along, Viktor Minin, Crimea's minister of the state, told Interfax. He also said that, following his meeting with a delegation of the Crimean parliament in Simeiz, Kuchma had called Meshkov on the telephone and invited Meshkov to see him.

Meshkov could not accept the invitation because of the situation in Simferopol where the television and radio station building had been captured by parliament supporters. Kuchma told Meshkov about his talks with the parliamentarians, Minin said.

Kuchma told Meshkov that the zero option was the sole way to resolve the crisis. Meshkov replied that he had proposed the same option to the parliament as early as the morning of September 12. The parliament leaders did not allow one of the deputies to read this proposal and so copies of it were distributed to the deputies, Minin told Interfax.

Minin attributed this behavior of the parliamentary leaders to the fear of a negotiating process and said that they relied on the Ukrainian president's support.

Minin said that Kuchma's opponents would like to have mass rallies and disorder in Crimea so as to force Kuchma to disband the Crimean parliament and remove Meshkov. If Kuchma does so, Minin explained. His opponents will demonstrate their power to him. As a result, not only would the Republic of Crimea be suppressed but Kuchma would suffer from destabilization of Ukraine.

Official: Meshkov Wants To Avoid Violence

LD1209170794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1626 GMT 12 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Simferopol September 12—Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov is ready to do anything, even quit his presidential post, in order to avoid violence in the peninsular republic, journalists were told today by Viktor Minin, head of the Crimean Department for State Affairs.

The press conference was held only for the chief editors of local official publications. Minin apologized for Meshkov, saying that the president had decided to temporarily refrain from making statements to foreign mass media.

Acting Vice-Premier Sergey Nikolskiy and Minin also told those present about Meshkov's message to the members of the republic's parliament, which Meshkov suspended on Sunday night. The document claims that the republic's constitutional crisis is the result of the parliament's attempts to change the balance of power between the executive and legislative branches in its own favour. That was, in fact, parliamentary encroachment on the powers of the popularly-elected president. Meshkov's message expressed concern over the constant attempts by certain deputies to increase tension in the republic and divert the conflict into a dangerous channel.

Meshkov is offering to discuss the current situation with the parliamentarians, find out who and why decided to declare war on the president, and return to the legal situation as of September sixth. The president would be willing to begin, on the above basis, talks on ways to overcome the constitutional crisis and search for a reasonable resolution.

Minin reported that this morning an attempt had been made to deliver Meshkov's message to the parliamentary deputies, who were holding an extraordinary session. However, the president's representative was not allowed to speak. The State Affairs Department chief concluded, therefore, that the parliament is dominated by destructive forces which do not desire a dialogue with the president.

Minin also reported that Meshkov's administration had reached an agreement with Ukraine's Interior Ministry and Security Service on the maintenance of law and order. The law enforcement bodies will maintain neutrality in the current crisis and take action only if disorders arise.

Meshkov Creates New Presidential Council

LD1209170894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1605 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov signed a decree "On the Presidential Council" this afternoon.

According to the document, the Presidential Council, an initiative and consultative body, will be composed of former deputies of the Crimean parliament. The deputies included in the new body were asked to start forming its working bodies and assume their duties.

The decree was motivated by the need to surmount the constitutional crisis and improve the economic, social and political strategy of the republic. Members of the Presidential Council are to take part in the development of a new constitution along with the Constitutional Council.

Meshkov signed the decree on the creation of the Constitutional Council last Sunday. The council headed by Justice Minister Lyubov Yeliseyeva-Bora was asked to develop and submit to popular vote a new Crimean constitution before December 1994.

Kuchma Meets Crimean Parliamentary Delegation

LD1209170294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1605 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma met Crimean Parliamentary Speaker Sergey Tsekov, member of the Crimean parliamentary presidium Mikhail Bakharev and the leader of the Crimean Tatar People's Kurultai Refat Chubarov at his summer residence Simeiz near Yalta this afternoon.

Crimean Deputy Parliamentary Speaker Viktor Mezhak told journalists that Kuchma could not come to Simferopol to explain Kiev's position on the power crisis in Crimea as requested by the Crimean parliament.

As soon as the delegation returns from Simeiz, the Crimean parliament will resume its session.

The presidium of the Crimean Supreme Court continued its session in Simferopol this afternoon. The Crimean parliament had asked the court yesterday to consider the constitutionality of Yuriy Meshkov's decrees to disband the representative bodies of state power. Only three out of five members of the presidium took part in the session.

The president of the Crimean State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company, Valery Astakhov, told Interfax that the company building had already been unblocked and deputies were being allowed to the transmission center.

A special report was to be broadcast this afternoon to make public resolutions passed by the Crimean parliament yesterday.

A number of special reports attended by the Crimean parliamentary speaker, his deputies and faction leaders, were also planned to be broadcast.

Parliament Undecided on 'Zero Option'

LD1209195294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1830 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma has proposed the conflicting parties in Crimea - President Yuriy Meshkov and the parliamentary leadership - return to a zero option.

Crimean Parliamentary Speaker Sergey Tsekov told Interfax after his meeting with Kuchma in Simeiz, Crimea, this afternoon, that the Ukrainian president proposed that Meshkov renounce his decree to suspend the activities of the Crimean parliament, while the parliament that to limit the powers of the president.

At the meeting which lasted for more than two hours, Kuchma proposed that a conciliatory commission with the participation of his representative be set up to settle the situation.

Tsekov pointed out that despite the external attractiveness of this proposal there existed a very important question—the parliamentary resolutions were passed on the basis of the existing Constitution, while the presidential decrees ran counter to it.

Tsekov declined to comment on whether the parliament would accept Kuchma's proposals saying that the answer rests with the Crimean parliament. He also said that Kuchma planned to meet Meshkov's representatives before making public his proposals.

Russian Party Supports 'Zero Option'

LD1209211494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1837 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] The Russian Party in Crimea has called both on President Yuriy Meshkov and the Supreme Soviet to suspend their latest decisions leading to an outbreak of tension between the republican legislature and executive.

Its statement calls for a zero option with both sides returning to the status quo of September 6.

"Both branches of government were elected on the Russia Alliance's platform and both of them pledged commitment to the idea of Russian ownership of Crimea", it runs.

The Russian Party deems it necessary to call a Crimean referendum to determine the status of the territory and whether it wants to have presidential or parliamentarian rule.

Any other option will lead to further confrontation fraught with tragic consequences amid the region's economic hardships and in the face of impending winter.

Parliament Hopes for Kiev's Support

LD1209160694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1448 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] The Crimean parliament expects Ukrainian authorities will take actions to restore the Crimean

Constitution. This statement was made in an exclusive interview with Interfax-Ukraine on Monday morning by chairman of the Crimean parliament Sergey Tsekov.

It is enough to qualify the president's activities as unconstitutional, said Tsekov.

Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov, by his decrees made public on Sunday, suspended the activities of the republic's parliament and local councils. Parliament deputies on Sunday were not allowed into the parliament building and the special session took place in the building of the republic's prosecutor's office.

Tsekov expressed satisfaction about his conversation with Chairman of Ukrainian Parliament Oleksandr Moroz on August 11.

Tsekov said that Meshkov had violated the Ukrainian Constitution when he dissolved the regional councils. If the president does not stop at this, he said, there will be no parliament or president.

He said that the Crimean parliament ordered Ukrainian law-enforcement bodies to disarm the personnel of the president's security service. However, he said, acting Chief of the Crimean Interior Department Vitaliy Kirichenko is not up to the task.

Tsekov fears lest other armed units from CIS countries along with criminal elements take the side of Meshkov. Unless serious steps are taken, he said, an armed conflict could be ignited.

At the same time, Tsekov believes that in the current situation such an outcome is unlikely. The parliament will not agree to this, he said, but it will not yield either.

We will achieve that the parliament is obeyed, even if it is not housed in its building, said Tsekov. He said that on Monday deputies will attempt to restore the constitutional system in the Crimean Republic.

Parliament Holds Emergency Session

LD1309082694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] The Crimean parliament is holding an emergency session in its building in Simferopol today. Serhiy Tsekov, chairman of the Crimean Supreme Council, said in an interview with Interfax that he had been told by telephone from the Ministry of Internal Affairs that it is possible to work in the building. The building was earlier blockaded against the entry of deputies by President Yuriy Meshkov's guard.

Serhiy Tsekov also reported that at a sitting of the presidium he would propose an initiative not to discuss at the session the zero option earlier put forward by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma. Serhiy Tsekov thinks that the rescinding of the Crimean president's decree dissolving the supreme and local councils would be a genuine zero option. As for parliamentary resolutions, the chairman asserts that they were passed in accordance with the Constitution and current legislation.

Parliament Invalidates Meshkov's Decrees

LD1209163094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1448 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] The Crimean Supreme Soviet declared at its emergency session Sunday night all the Crimean president's decrees invalid. It said that they must not be carried out by state bodies, officials, local governments, factories, offices, interest groups or individuals.

The Crimean parliament asked the Crimean Supreme Court to pronounce a ruling on legitimacy of the president's actions.

As few as 24 deputies of the 73 present at the session voted for no-confidence in the president.

The Supreme Soviet called on the defense, interior and security force commanders to take over the communication links, mass media and presses.

Addresses to the presidents and parliaments of Ukraine and Russia, to the UN and CSCE protesting the Crimean President's actions were adopted.

Colonel Lieutenant Vitaliy Kirichenko, head of the Ukrainian Interior Ministry's Crimean branch, told the session that the police had all highways, the airport and railway stations in the Crimea under control so as to prevent the arrival of criminals in the peninsula. He said that the police would try to prevent bloodshed which would be inevitable if the parliament and television buildings were taken by force.

Ivan Kolomytsev, head of the Ukrainian Security Service Crimean branch told parliamentarians that they could not enter the parliament building without shooting and suggested that they work elsewhere for a few days.

The MPs decided to stay in session until next morning.

The Tavrida publishing house, the largest in Crimea, was been taken over by the presidential Security Service, a body which had which had been declared illegal by the Crimean parliament's presidium.

Parliament Rejects Meshkov Appeal for Talks

LD1209173294 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] The windows and doors on the ground floor of Simferopol's White House were barred with old furniture on 12 September because deputies were expected to storm the premises. Meanwhile, a group of journalists were invited to attend a news conference held here by Yuriy Meshkov. The Crimean president wished to speak only to editors of official Crimean newspapers, while other journalists were received by the government's acting Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Nikolskiy and State Affairs Minister Viktor Minin.

Offering apologies on behalf of the president, Minin explained that, due to his excited state, Meshkov decided to refrain from statements for the general media. He added that the president and Crimean newspaper editors discussed unbiased reporting of views of each side—the president and the parliament.

Journalists were informed about the Crimean president's appeal to the Supreme Council. The constitutional crisis in the republic, it says, was caused by the parliament's attempts to tip in its favor the balance between representative and executive authorities. In fact, the Supreme Council infringed on the powers of the popularly elected president. The statement expresses concern at continuous attempts by certain deputies to mount tension and place the conflict on a dangerous course. The Crimean president offered talks on the present situation to clarify who initiated the policy of war against the president and for what purpose and to return to the legal status quo before 7 September. On this premise, the president is ready to begin talks on ways to overcome the constitutional crisis and look for a sensible settlement.

On Monday morning, Minin said, an attempt was made to deliver the appeal to the Supreme Council deputies who assembled in an emergency session. However, the presidential representative was denied the floor. Thus, the head of the state affairs service concluded, the destructive forces in parliament did not want a dialogue. However, he stressed, the Crimean president will do all he can to prevent an explosion. According to Minin, order in the republic was maintained at Meshkov's orders, under an agreement with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Security Service of Ukraine.

Meanwhile, the emergency session of the Supreme Council has decided not to agree to the terms offered by the president until he rescinds his latest decrees.

To Negotiate if Meshkov Repeals Decrees

LD1209195194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1830 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] The Crimean parliament has adopted an address to President Yuriy Meshkov declaring its consent to negotiate with him if he repeals all the decrees disbanding the parliament and local councils, Aleksey Melnikov, deputy chairman of the Crimean parliament, told Interfax.

Meshkov had earlier expressed his willingness to negotiate with parliament, provided that the latter repealed its resolutions on restricting his powers.

Melnikov also said that all the buildings, other than that of the parliament, that had earlier been seized by the presidential security service, had later been left by Meshkov's men.

He added that Meshkov's supporters were building barricades inside the parliament building which also houses Meshkov's office. Melnikov emphasized that nobody intended to storm Meshkov and that Meshkov might stay there as long as he desired.

Officials in Meshkov's headquarters dismissed the reports of barricades.

Deputy Blames Crisis on 'Neighboring State'

LD1209161694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1448 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] A member of the Ukrainian parliament, Nikolay Porovskiy, said the current standoff between Crimea's president and parliament "has been provoked by the security services of a neighboring state."

Before the confrontation began, both the president and the parliamentary chairman of the autonomous republic "tried to enlist the support of the Ukrainian military," Porovskiy, leader of the Crimea With Ukraine Committee, told Interfax-Ukraine on Sunday. He expressed apprehensions that Kiev might send troops to the peninsula under the pretext of enforcing law and order while Russian forces stationed there might be provoked into armed action.

Deputies Gain Access To TV, Radio

LD1209160394 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1445 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Simferopol, 12 Sep—A rally was held in a park near the Crimean Procuracy with the participation of 150 members of the Communist Party of Crimea. The action is taking place in support of the system of local councils of the Republic of Crimea. Somewhat earlier, President Meshkov gave a speech to residents of Simferopol during picketing in support of the president, which was led by Anatoliy Los, leader of the Russian Crimean Society. Meshkov said that he was fulfilling his duties before the people and that his decision on dissolving the Supreme Council, which he considers to be completely constitutional, was dictated by the fact that Crimea's Supreme Council had deprived him of the possibility of introducing economic reforms by restricting the president's powers. The Crimean president expressed confidence that the people would elect him president even today. [passage omitted]

Two hours ago the guard around the building of the radio and television company was removed through the efforts of deputies. It was being protected by President Meshkov's personal guard, which two weeks ago was declared an illegal formation by the Supreme Council Presidium. The situation was particularly tense near the television building because "Cossacks from the south coast" had stood in the way of people's deputies in the approaches to the building. The guard retreated under pressure from the crowds that support Crimea's Supreme Council. Deputies received the opportunity of appearing freely on air.

Police Abandonment of TV Station Called Treason

LD1209195394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1830 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Viktor Minin, minister of the state in the Crimean government, said that by abandoning their post guarding the Krym TV and radio station in Simferopol a police unit had committed treason.

When Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov suspended the parliament and local councils, the police unit standing guard on the station was reinforced.

Once they saw nearly 100 Cossacks approaching the station on September 12, the police immediately left and the Cossacks entered the building unimpeded.

Minin told Interfax that 30 minutes before the arrival of the Cossacks Meshkov had telephoned Interior Ministry officials and ordered them to let nobody into the station. The officials said that they were taking the necessary steps. Instead, they withdrew and let the Cossacks in.

Law Enforcement Bodies Urged To Prevent Clashes

LD1209162994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1448 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] The prosecutor general's office, interior ministry and the security services in a joint statement in Kiev have said the situation in Crimea remains calm. The statement says that apart from several politicized groups, the power struggle on top had little effect on the ground and there were no incidents of public disorder on Sunday.

At the same time, the statement warns that the current stand-off in Simferopol may lead to dire implications.

The Ukrainian law enforcement bodies have described as illegal the denial of entry to Crimean deputies into the parliament building and the blocking of local television.

They also expressed concern over an exchange of threats and actions by parties in the conflict and attempts to try to drag local police so as to resolve the conflict by force. Such actions, runs the statement, may fan up the conflict with unpredictable consequences to follow.

In the emerging situation, Crimean law enforcement agencies have been instructed to try to prevent any violent clashes and avert the use of local police in any unlawful action, says the statement.

Black Sea Fleet Remains Neutral in Events

LD1209155094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1446 GMT 12 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Sep—The command of the Black Sea Fleet is attentively watching the events in the Crimean capital Simferopol, while observing strict neutrality. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told this by a representative of the Black Sea Fleet commander's press center.

According to the latter, the situation in the Black Sea Fleet and in Sevastopol is calm. There were no rallies, demonstrations or other manifestatiopns of the citizens' political activity in the city on 11 September or today.

The usual daily roll calls of the personnel are being carried out in the Black Sea Fleet. All the servicemen of the Black Sea Fleet are at their posts.

Population Said To Support Meshkov

LD1209195794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 12 Sep 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] All the mass media have attentively been following the development of events in Crimea today. Sometimes the information that came in was contradictory. Therefore, we contacted the administration of the Crimean president, now you will see a video recording and you will hear a telephone report that has only just been received.

[Begin Viktor Minin recording, head of Crimea's State Affairs Service, Simferopol, identified by caption] Minin, Viktor, head of Crimea's State Affairs Service. Through the measures undertaken by the president of Crimea the situation is under control and is keeping within the framework of the normal ongoing process. Individual extremists, small groups who have been provoked by some parliamentarians do not have the support of the population in the towns and villages. The residents of Crimea want peace and stability. They are not in agreement with the policy being conducted by the Supreme Soviet. After the president's edicts were announced, he forbade people, no matter who they were, to go on the air, so that there would not be any calls for rallies and so forth. Some of the deputies, supported by criminal structures and permitted by the passive attitude of the militia of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kiev, managed to get into the television studios and made a few live broadcasts, but in order to avert a conflict, no one prevented them from doing that. Unfortunately, a great deal of misinformation was issued to the population of Crimea during this broadcasting, but I think the population of Crimea has already made its choice. [end recording]

[Announcer] We have just received that telephone report.

Next Few Days in Crimea Said 'Decisive'

MM1209180194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Sep 94 First Edition p 1

[Report by Boris Tulyak under the "Topic of the Day" rubric: "Crimea: Meshkov Dissolves Parliament"]

[Text] Simferopol—Rumors worrying the people of the Crimea over the past two weeks to the effect that Yuriy Meshkov, through his own edict, was on the point of suspending the activity of the autonomy's Supreme Council have been substantiated. As of last Sunday, the full panoply of power passed to the president. This power will be exercised until such a time as an all-Crimea referendum on the Fundamental Law takes place, followed by elections for a new parliament.

Meanwhile, however, the doors of the Supreme Council have been slammed shut to the people's elected deputies, and all efforts to get into its lobbies have run up against uncompromising security guards. Moreover, Simferopol's most elegant building has been left in limbo. The talks between Parliamentary Chairman S. Tsekov and Yu. Meshkov were not successful.

The disgraced deputies, among whom rank the vast majority of the "Rossiya" bloc, the leader of which is the president himself whose candidacy they amicably supported at the elections, were forced to hold an emergency session in the auditorium of the republic prosecutor's office. And it is here, indeed, that they, sparing no blushes, gave vent to what they think of Yu. Meshkov. And their thoughts, to put it mildly, are not very flattering.

As far back as in spring the deputies ventured, albeit fairly modestly, to remind their leader that it is not within his competence to appoint the government personally and to interpret the laws in his own way. The president understood, but he paid no heed. After that, the situation snowballed. The local administration heads appointed directly by Yu. Meshkov ceased to satisfy the parliamentarians, and they took these rights away from him. And, of course, the deputies subjected the president to the harshest criticism for his never-ending travels to distant foreign countries, the effectiveness of which have as yet come to nothing, whereas transport and other expenses run into many millions.

From the prosecutor's office building, the deputies addressed fellow countrymen with a request to ignore the president's edicts, while remaining calm in doing so. At the same time, they submitted an action to the Supreme Court against Meshkov who, in their view, has effected a coup on the peninsula.

In his turn, the president, having likened the legislative power to "a braking mechanism in full working order on the road to reforming the economy" and having accused the deputies of corruption, appealed to the people for support. From early morning, radio and television stations broadcast the text of this appeal over and over again.

But the thing which dismayed both conflicting sides is this. The people of the Crimea seem not to have noticed the crisis of power. On the whole, the handful of curious people who gathered outside the parliament building arrived at the same line of thinking: Let them run riot for a while, they'll hitch themselves to same post in the end [posle vse ravno prishvartuyutsya k odnomu prichalu]. Of course, this is not the type of support that Yu. Meshkov was hoping for first and foremost, having grown accustomed to a situation whereby any external criticism of him would prompt many thousands to rally in in support. Now all he has is an empty central square.

And the whole trouble is that both the president's election and the subsequent promises to stabilize the economic situation on the peninsula, to alleviate life for the least well-off, to curb the rise in prices, and, in a matter of months, to wipe out crime, have come to absolutely nothing. A high cost of living has taken hold in the Crimea like nowhere else, it seems, and there are mafia clans in whose daily shootouts innocent people often die.

Yuriy Meshkov saw as the reason for the failure of his promises the intransigence of the Supreme Council and its efforts to trim the power of the president. This alone forced him to opt for the most drastic measures.

Ukraine's leadership, the general prosecutor's office, and the security service have interpreted the crisis on the peninsula in exactly the same way: Yu. Meshkov's actions contradict not only the constitution of Ukraine, but also that of the Crimea. It is clearly stated in Paragraph 5 that the president of the autonomy does not have the right to dissolve parliament.

In his message, L. Kuchma expressed the hope that both branches of power will demonstrate wisdom, that they will be able to find a compromise, and that they will and not seek to draw the people into confrontation.

Ukraine's Supreme Council Chairman O. Moroz cut short his vacation. Late Sunday evening, he invited deputy-lawyers for consultation. Apparently, in connection with the heightened situation in the Crimea, the Ukrainian Parliament's recess will be extended for several weeks, which will allow the Supreme Council Presidium to examine the problem more deeply.

In the view of leading political experts and observers, the Crimean crisis is as yet far from at its height. After all, the conflicting sides have all but sworn not to give in to one another. Events of the next few days should be decisive.

Yuriy Meshkov, after suspending the activity of the republic Supreme Council Sunday night through his edict, proposed that parliament enter into talks on solving the conflict between the executive and the legislative branches of power.

However, by way of one of the conditions for opening the talks, Yuriy Meshkov proposed that the Supreme Council abolish amendments to the Crimean Constitution and the Law "On the President" adopted by the parliament which restrict the powers of the head of the republic. Clarifying his position, Meshkov declared that he does not intend to allow Supreme Council activity to resume before the referendum of Crimea's citizens on the adoption of a new Constitution scheduled for spring next year.

In the words of Viktor Minin, chief of the Republic of Crimea Service for State Affairs, the president intends to invite Crimean Parliament deputies who support the president of the republic to form a Constitutional Council to elaborate the republic's Fundamental Law.

According to information from the same sources, Republic of Crimea Prosecutor Valentin Kuptsov has requested that the parliamentary deputies holding an emergency session in the republic prosecutor's office building leave the official premises of the law-enforcement body.

Viktor Minin also announced that last Sunday and Monday Yuriy Meshkov spoke with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma over the telephone on several occations, and the sides reached "full mutual understanding."

Hopes Rise for Easing of Crisis

LD1309090994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0847 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova and Marina Kosareva]

[Text] Simferopol September 13 TASS—Hopes emerged Tuesday that the constitutional crisis in the Crimea may ease after the local parliament, dissolved by Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov, was allowed to resume work in its office.

Earlier the building was blocked on presidential orders by armed guards and lawmakers had to hold an emergency session in the office of the republican prosecutor. Meshkov ruled on Sunday to suspend the work of the Crimean parliament and of local soviets after lawmakers tried to strip him of many of his powers.

On Monday Meshkov qualified the decision as "an infringement on the powers of the popularly-elected president" and said he could get down to talks with lawmakers only if they cancel their decision.

However, despite the first inspiring signs of eased tensions, the stand-off would hardly be overcome in the near future as only yesterday both sides occupied completely irreconcilable positions.

On Monday a group of lawmakers denounced Meshkov's actions. Speaking on local TV lawmaker Rafat Chubarov accused the president of "usurping the power". Another lawmaker, Fyodor Snegirev, qualified Meshkov's decision as "completely unlawful". He added that the actions of the president consolidated the parliament, all its factions and groups which forgot about their contradictions.

Nevertheless, some lawmakers said a compromise was possible. "I hope the president can still contact us," A. Morozov said on TV. "A heavy crisis has come, but ways towards mutual understanding should be found," echoed lawmaker Aleksandr Frolov who is also deputy Black Sea Fleet commander.

The coming days will show which moods prevail in the Crimean crisis.

According to Crimean State Affairs Minister Viktor Minin, the official Kiev is not interested in that the executive authority in the Crimea is completely subordinated to the parliament which is known for its open pro-Russian stand. "If (President) Leonid Kuchma was against (Meshkov's actions) nothing would have happened here", he told reporters.

However, lawmaker Mikhail Bakharev said on TV that Kuchma was unaware of Meshkov's plans. He added that the Russian leadership knew nothing about them either.

Kuchma himself, who is currently on vacation in the Crimea, expressed confusion over the latest developments in the peninsula during a meeting with Crimean Parliament Speaker Sergey Tsekhov.

Crimeans 'in No Hurry' To Take to Barricades

MM1309090194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 1

[Commentary by Vladimir Yermolin: "Crimean President and Parliament Have Launched 'War to the Death.' Crimeans in No Hurry To Take to the Barricades"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] So today the situation in Crimea has moved on to the phase of mounting tension. Admittedly, it should be noted that the sparks struck by the authorities in their infighting have not yet inflamed passions among Crimeans. The rallies held over recent days in Sevastopol and Simferopol have been the traditional "chamber" events and were whipped up exclusively by the vigor of party agitators. People are certainly not indifferent to how the president and parliament get along together. And, of course, to whose heads are on the block in such and such an eventuality. But it looks as though the Crimeans' common sense, the experience of survival amid political bedlam that they have acquired over recent years, and their everyday concerns for their daily bread may well localize the incipient conflagration. At any rate, I would very much hope so. After all, without waiting for active involvement of the broad masses in the conflict, the sides would be forced to seek a compromise exclusively in the realm of the laws and the Constitution. Clearly, the temptation to unsheathe your saber from its scabbard and begin a cavalry charge arises when you feel the hot breath of a huge mob on your neck and when the people's admiration elevates you to the rank of leader and hero. Then coordinating articles and paragraphs of the law with the opposition seems a dull and futile occupation.

A great deal will also depend on the position adopted by Moscow and Kiev. Unequivocal support for one side, once again, would tempt it to transgress the law and to finish off its adversary at a stroke. I think that in this case the gestures of the Russian and Ukrainian leadership will nevertheless be aimed at supporting a purely political, legally based settlement of the conflict. Maybe today's events in Crimea are one of the last chances to halt the pernicious trend to escalate the confrontation between the various branches of power to a "war to the death." A trend that Crimea by no means originated.

It may appear to outside observers that Crimea is currently witnessing a confrontation between two implacable forces whose views on the peninsula's future are diametrically opposed. However, if you take a careful look at the sides' program statements it will become clear that what is taking place is a struggle between personalities, certainly not between fateful blueprints for the development of Crimean statehood. Maybe this is another reason why Crimeans are in no hurry to take to the barricades that their elected authorities are so diligently erecting for them.

Moroz Views Crimea Crisis

LD1309103094 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev, 12 Sept—An interview with Oleksandr Moroz, Ukraine's Supreme Council chairman:

QUESTION: The definitive text of the statement by Ukraine's Supreme Council presidium with regard to the Crimean situation is at present being elaborated. What significance does this statement have and how can it influence the course of events?

MOROZ: We are making a political and legal assessment of the situation and actions of the power structures in Crimea. And for this reason alone it should have its own significance as a document of the Supreme Council presidium—the organ of Ukraine's Supreme Council. Undoubtedly adjustments will be made to the Supreme Council's position at the session, but we hope that the power structures in Crimea will come to the appropriate conclusions before then, proceeding from our assessment, certainly, proceeding from the assessment made by the president yesterday and those recommendations, which he expressed regarding the power structure. I would like to emphasize that we do not divide responsibility, or do not attribute responsibility for the development of events to one particular element of authority. We are saying that both Crimea's Supreme Council and president are going beyond the bounds of the constitutional field in Crimea. However, we are concentrating the statement on the recent events, which boil down to the violation of Crimea's constitution and Ukraine's constitution namely by the republic's president. Therefore more emphasis has been put on this side of the matter. I believe that there are sufficient grounds for this because if we want to struggle for constitutional power, if we want to struggle for democracy, then one should struggle by democratic legal methods. And no one has the right to go beyond the bounds of the constitution and Ukraine's current laws. This is why the assessments concern the events of recent days the most.

QUESTION: Today the Supreme Council presidium members stressed that coordinated synchronized actions by Ukraine's president and Supreme Council are needed.

MOROZ: Certainly. And I would go on to say that these actions are already coordinated now. As from 0600 yesterday morning I have been in constant contact with the president of Ukraine. Tomorrow as far as I know, he will end his holiday and return to work. The content of our statement has been agreed with him. And as for joint actions, I think that we will consult on this tomorrow. Our actions will be coordinated and appropriate to the situation, which has now arisen in Crimea.

QUESTION: Today the Supreme Council presidium members expressed themselves in favor of stepping up the actions of the Ukrainian government in Crimea? [as received]

MOROZ: There is a great need for this. The point is that the situation is developing in such a way and the attitude of the Crimean government to the central authorities in Ukraine was such, and to a certain extent the position of Ukraine's government (?was) unclear, that it appears as though the central authorities are not attending to the truly complex economic situation. Although, certainly the primary responsibility for the development of events rests with the executive authority in Crimea. Because when we say that preparations for the winter are almost not being conducted, when we say that there are now no normal contacts with Ukraine's other regions, then we should understand who is directly responsible for this. Therefore one should not be engaged in political intrigue now, one should be engaged in specific problems, which perturb the people of Crimea and Ukraine as a whole.

In order to improve such cooperation I am convinced that the location of a permanent mission of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers in Crimea would be expedient—for the coordination of actions of Ukraine's government and its autonomy, so that the pressing problems, which could complicate the situation in the future, are resolved more quickly. Therefore I believe that such a mission will be necessary. But all of this can be done by a procedure envisaged in the law and within the bounds of the remit, which both Ukraine's government and Crimea's executive structures have now.

QUESTION: Will you manage after all not to allow bloodshed in Crimea, for it is believed by some that a state of emergency should be introduced immediately?

MOROZ: There are no grounds for bloodshed and there is no alarm with regard to this. Moreover, the information which I possess and which is also possessed by other representatives of authority in Ukraine, says that people are fed up of political intrigue, and they understand that it is not about Crimea's interests, it is not about the interests of Crimea's populace or of the people of Ukraine. It is about the struggle for power. All of Ukraine's population became fed up of this long ago. And now the actions of Ukraine's president as head of the executive authority and guarantor of Ukraine's Constitution, [the actions] of Ukraine's Supreme Council and of all power structures should be directed at resolving vital issues, vitally important issues for all of Ukraine's citizens, and not issues of the struggle for power. Therefore I consider that people have already made this assessment.

QUESTION: How would you define the responsibility of journalists at this time?

MOROZ: I would ask them now to be very balanced in their assessments and not give any opportunity to those, who would now like to use the mass media to provoke the exacerbation [of the situation]. This concerns not only journalists, but above all the intelligentsia in the widest meaning of the word. Words are actions too. And therefore one should now evaluate every word and consider the consequences and what response it will have in a specific situation and in specific actions. I hope that the mass media of Ukraine and Crimea will objectively reflect those processes, which are occurring, and make a balanced assessment of those objective difficulties and contradictions, which arise when a state is forming and developing. Therefore I hope for balance in assessments, words, deeds, in the work of the mass media.

Moroz Blames Both Branches of Power

LD1209191294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1804 GMT 12 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhakl Melnik]

[Text] Kiev, 12 Sep—"Both branches of power—both the Supreme Council and the president of the autonomous republic—are to blame in the prevailing situation in Crimea," thinks Oleksandr Moroz, chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Council. In an exclusive interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent today he said that "if we want to strive for constitutional power, for democracy, then this must be done by democratic and legal means." "No one has the right to violate the Constitution and other Ukrainian laws currently in force," the parliament speaker emphasized.

He observed, moreover, that recently both the Supreme Council and the president of the Crimean Republic had "sinned" in this respect. But Yuriy Meshkov, Oleksandr Moroz thinks, has considerably exceeded his powers and is at variance with not only Ukrainian, but also Crimean legislation. "Yuriy Meshkov must take the first step back," the speaker said. "For its part, the Crimean Supreme Council is also bound to analyze its decisions and bring them into accordance with the Ukrainian Constitution, there is no other way," he observed.

In his view, the world community expects just such actions. Russia also has a balanced stance on the Crimean problem. As Oleksandr Moroz put it, "it regards the development of this situation as it would the problems of an independent neighboring state, namely Ukraine." In the view of the speaker of the Ukrainian parliament, this is the correct stance.

Oleksandr Moroz believes that there is no need whatsoever to sow panic. "The situation in Crimea is calm and there can be no question of any bloodshed. People are well aware that it is a case of a struggle for power on the peninsula. But they are already fed up with all kinds of politicking," the chairman of the Supreme Council observed. "The actions of the structures of power," in his view "should be directed at solving vital problems and not at satisfying personal ambitions."

Oleksandr Moroz believes that the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers should step up its activity. This does not mean that the Crimean Government is not responsible for the economic situation in the autonomy. "Of course, the government structures of Ukraine and Crimea should work in close collaboration," said the head of parliament. In this connection he said it would be expedient for the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers to have permanent representation in the Republic of Crimea.

He said that he had been in constant contact since six o'clock yesterday morning with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma who was on vacation in Crimea. "All actions by the country's leadership toward resolving the situation in Crimea are agreed and decisions and statements are being adopted jointly," said the speaker. According to Oleksandr Moroz, the Ukrainian head of state will interrupt his vacation tomorrow and begin work.

Oleksandr Moroz believes that the situation in Crimea will be normalized very soon. In his view, what is primarily needed now is for all the legal enactments of the Republic of Crimea to be brought into line with the Ukrainian Constitution. "Otherwise," the speaker observed, "the autonomy faces the most gloomy prospect. This primarily concerns the structures of power that bear the full burden of responsibility for people's futures." "The clash between the executive and legislative branches of power is artificial and should not affect the prosperity of the population," Oleksandr Moroz emphasized.

Supreme Council Presidium Statement on Crimea

LD1309120194 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev, 12 Sep—The following statement was issued by Ukraine's Supreme Council presidium:

"The conflict which has arisen in the last few days between the Crimean republic's president and Crimea's Supreme Council evokes deep concern. The decrees by the Crimean republic's president on halting the activity of Crimea's Supreme Council and rayon, town, and urban rayon councils of people's deputies, and a number of other decrees directed at altering state authority in the republic are in direct violation of the constitution and laws of Ukraine and the constitution and laws of the autonomous Republic of Crimea. In accordance with Ukraine's legislation the exclusive right to pre- term suspension of the powers of Crimea's Supreme Council and local councils of people's deputies belongs to Ukraine's Supreme Council.

"The Constitution of the Crimean Republic does not envisage, and the law on the president of the Crimean Republic plainly prohibits the president of the Crimean republic from halting the activity of Crimea's Supreme Council or dissolving it. The president's decrees cannot be described as anything other than an endeavor to usurp power and to eliminate in the autonomous Republic of Crimea the democratic principles of the construction of authority in Ukraine.

"Frequent violations of Ukraine's Constitution and laws by the Crimean Republic's Supreme Council and president contributed to the development of the conflict. Ukraine's Supreme Council presidium proceeds from the fact that discrepancies between the legislative and executive authorities should be resolved within the framework of the Constitution and current laws, and considers any retreat from this principle to be inadmissible. In connection with this the presidium insists that the president of the Crimean Republic rescinds his illegal decisions.

"Ukraine's Supreme Council presidium also affirms Ukraine's Supreme Council's demands to Crimea's Supreme Council with regard to reviewing those of its decisions, which are not in line with Ukraine's Constitution and laws, and recommends that it steps up its influence on the executive authority and makes use of the local personnel potential more fully. We are convinced that Ukraine's Supreme Council will support the concrete measures of Ukraine's president, as the guarantor of abidance by Ukraine's Constitution and laws and of its sovereignty and territorial integrity, (?which are) aimed at ensuring legality and law and order on the territorial autonomy of the Republic of Crimea.

"We consider it necessary for Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers to ensure closer cooperation with the Crimean republic's government in its resolution of issues of the socioeconomic life of the autonomous Republic of Crimea. We express the hope that in the present situation local councils of people's deputies in the autonomous Republic of Crimea and its executive committees, when implementing their constitutional powers, will concentrate their attention on resolving urgent socioeconomic problems and call on the population of the Crimean Republic to reason and calm."

Deputy Premier Saburov Backs Meshkov

LD1209193794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Report over video by correspondent Marina Lillevyali; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The media have today circulated a statement by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma. It says that the Crimean events are destabilizing the situation. Leonid Kuchma called on the Crimean president and Crimean Supreme Soviet to find a more constructive and acceptable decision within the limits of the laws of the Ukraine and the Crimea. The key ministries in Kiev have instructed the law enforcement bodies in Ukraine to prevent the use of force. The Russian authorities have not yet made any official statement on the Crimean situation. But Yevgeniy Saburov, the deputy prime minister of the Crimean Republic, spoke his mind when he arrived in Moscow this morning:

[Begin recording] [Saburov] Meshkov's decision is absolutely legitimate. There was no other option under the circumstances. We are experiencing a transition. This transition is very difficult, very complex, very difficult. But we are moving toward real democracy through autocracy. Everyone agrees with this so much that the situation is quite calm and people are attending to their own affairs. The Kiev leadership has been in touch with the Crimean Supreme Soviet. You know about that, do you not? Therefore, the present reaction is not normal. [end recording]

[Lillevyali] Have you met anybody, among officials, in Moscow?

[Saburov] The heads of all organs of power are all my friends. I will have meetings with my friends of course. No doubt they will ask me what is going on in the Crimea.

[Lillevyali] Can you guarantee that the president's situation will remain under control?

[Saburov] I believe there is no special reason to think that control may be lost.

[Lillevyali] People have no weapons, have they? [Saburov shrugs his shoulders, pulls his face, and says absolutely nothing] [end recording]

Saburov Accuses Parliament of Exceeding Powers

LD1209165194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1605 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] The recent events in Crimea were inevitable, according to Crimean Vice Prime Minister Yevgeniy Saburov. In an interview with Interfax Monday, he said that a coup attempt had been undertaken last week.

Saburov was speaking before his departure from Cheboksary where he attended an international exhibition in the Chuvash republic.

On September 7, the Crimean parliament passed a resolution which limited President Meshkov's powers. In response, Meshkov suspended the activities of parliament and local councils on September 11.

According to Saburov, "the Crimean parliament exceeded its powers and tried to remove President Meshkov from office. The president expressed the will of the people when he stopped the attempt."

Saburov ruled out the possibility of further aggravation of the situation because of popular support for Meshkov who he said had normalized the situation on the peninsula and removed the obstacles to economic reforms.

Saburov Says Reforms Will Continue

LD1209173894 St. Petersburg Fifth Channel Television Network in Russian 1530 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Before his urgent departure from Cheboksary due to the Crimean events, Crimea's Deputy Prime Minister Yevgeniy Saburov and Chuvashia's President Nikolay Fedorov—who took him to the airport—gave an exclusive interview to the Inform-TV program.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Yevgeniy Fedorovich, could you comment on the current Crimean situation?

[Saburov] These developments were, in fact, inevitable. Now I hear people talking about the coup d'etat. An attempt to carry out a coup was undertaken last week, when the Supreme Council exceeded its authority and virtually tried to remove the president from power. Naturally, the president—who was expressing the will of the people—crushed this attempt. This is how one should interpret the current events. The population is supporting the president, and all attempts of the Supreme Council in carrying out this coup, in one way or the other, will have no meaning, as they will gain no support. That is why neither the army, nor the power structures will be required.

[Correspondent] Yevgeniy Fedorovich, if [President] Meshkov were to gain the upper hand in this situation, how will this affect Crimea in this context?

[Saburov] I think "if" is superfluous here: Meshkov is already the victor, as it were—he simply restored the normal situation. As for Crimea, it means that reforms will continue, nobody will be able to stall them any more, and that is exactly what the Supreme Council was trying to do. Reforms bring hope, life, and the future.

[Fedorov] I would express one hope—self-styled democrats should commit fewer mistakes, they should not create such situations because of their militant ignorance. I mean deputies of the Crimean Supreme Council, and I would recommend the same to all deputies at all levels—whether in Russia, Ukraine, or in Chuvashia. [end recording]

Power Struggle Between Kuchma, Parliament Analyzed

AU1209140294 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 1 Sep 94 p 1

["Commentary by the press center 'Hot Line'": "Will the President's Defense Line Become a Line of Offensive Against the Supreme Council?"]

[Text] The personnel changes that have take place in the upper echelons of power over the last week make it practically impossible for President Kuchma to complain that he has no team of his own. Today, "the general without an army" has a quite considerable detachment.

The wave of edicts, dismissals, and appointments has overwhelmed the seemingly invincible Cabinet of Ministers headed by Vitaliy Masol, a cabinet that was built by the Supreme Council's majority in its likeness. According to the Constitution, the executive power belongs to the president. Recently, however, doubt has been cast on his constitutional right, particularly because of the lack of coordination among individual clauses of the Constitution and the prevailing system of councils and hence factual subordination or at least dependence of the Cabinet of Ministers on the Supreme Council.... In his struggle for the executive branch of power, the president is compelled to fight on two fronts at the same time. The "first Ukrainian front" runs along the executive committees of local councils, where Kuchma so far has the support of the largest oblast and town councils. The "second Ukrainian front" passes through the Cabinet of Ministers, in which the renovation process makes one wonder. Not only do observers note the replacement of key figures in the government, but also the affiliation of some of the newly appointed officials with power structures, their involvement in some territorial clans, and their links with specific interest groups.

Without looking into the general situation that is taking shape in the political arena, one can in a first approximation, proceeding from just three parameters, outline two large interests groups, opposition between which is becoming increasingly clear. There is, on the one hand, the pro-Western "Kravchuk" group (coal-extraction, metallurgy) and, on the other, the Eurasian "Kuchma" group (placing emphasis on production). These two groups are natural supporters of reforms (economic and, consequently, also political) and for that reason they are natural opponents of the "socialist" orientation. The latter is supported by the most numerous factions in the present Supreme Council—Communists-Socialists and agrarians. That is why the agro-industrial complex, whose interests are promoted by the aforementioned factions, constitutes the third interest group—a totally separate force, which plays a certain role in the political struggle and claims a quite significant share of both power and once "general national" property. The ideological orientations of these interest groups (in terms of their attitude toward radical economic reforms) are directly associated with the question of maintaining or abolishing the councils system of organizing the state power based upon councils [rady]. The cornerstone for the third interest group lies in such an economic unit as collective or state farm created by the socialist economy and Soviet [rady] power, a unit that cannot exist any longer unless the system of councils and the present "nationwide" ownership of land is maintained and strengthened. Of course, the first two interest groups are more market-oriented and are more likely to support Kuchma as head of the executive power in his struggle against the legislative power.

Some experts predict the president will prevail in this struggle, particularly considering the political forces that support him and may support him in the near future. Other analysts believe that the aforementioned personnel appointments at the Cabinet of Ministers and the entire administrative and organizational activity carried out by Kuchma and his team do not in fact have the key significance that some observers suppose.

The doubts are based on the idea that in the competition between the legislative and executive powers in the existing legal area the former will always have the last say. No matter how many edicts on resubordinating executive committees the president approves, how many loyal ministers he appoints, or how many duplicating structures in the administration he creates... we already have some experience: The structure of presidential representatives created by Kravchuk, a structure independent of councils and subordinated solely and exclusively to the president, was first neutralized by the Supreme Council's decision on the need to coordinate the candidature of the representative with the local council and was then totally canceled by the new law on local elections. Logic dictates to the president the need to look for an ally that would be legally stronger than the Supreme Council in the struggle against the power of the councils. Such an ally could be sought among the following: A nationwide referendum, the "anti-councils" new Constitution, and, finally, a move away from the legal area, something which, for example, [Russian President] Yeltsin resorted to in September and October 1993. All of these paths, especially the latter, seem to be unlikely, at least today, for the reason that the new president does not in fact enjoy nationwide support. For that particular reason, according to analysts, the Supreme Council chairman feels quite confident at the moment.

The next Supreme Council session will show who is right. It will depend on its reaction to Leonid Kuchma's recent steps and on adoption or failure to adopt the law "On Local Councils of People's Deputies" whether the defense line built by the president will become a line of offensive.

Republican Party Statement Reaffirms Opposition

WS1209144694 Kiev VYBIR in English 0803 GMT 12 Sep 94

["Excerpts" of resolution "about the political situation" issued at the Fifth Congress of the Ukrainian Republican Party on 11 September; place not given]

[Text] The URP [Ukrainian Republican Party] expresses its deep concern over the situation and trends in the activity of Ukrainian authorities.

Communist-socialist majority in the Parliament is not going to bear responsibility for the situation in economic sphere.

Neither suspension of privatization nor licking the Moscow's shoes nor the attempts to restore the ties that disappeared in a natural way on the part of president's team led to improvement of the state of affairs in economy.

Also hopeless are the attempts to draw Ukraine into the so-called single economic complex of the former USSR (now Russia) where Ukraine was nothing but a source of raw materials and concentration of ecologically hazardous industrial works. Recent reshuffles in the Ukrainian government resulted in resignation of all representatives of national-democratic forces. So far, the president has made not a single positive step to improve the economic situation. He has offered not a single program to overcome the crisis. A big threat to Ukraine is also establishment of joint ventures with Russia, particularly in big oil and gas enterprises where a bigger part of initial capital belongs to Russia. The attempts to draw Ukraine into military and political structures of the CIS run counter to our national interests and the Declaration of State Sovereignty. The same holds for the draft cooperation treaty with Russia. Signing the bill in its present edition would be inadmissible. Broadly advertised struggle against crime is nothing but continuation of the communist-wise bluff started by Mr. Kuchma when he was the prime minister of Ukraine. Given this, the Ukrainian Republican Party declares its opposition to the president, government and parliament of Ukraine. Still, we will back all actions of the authorities aimed at economic improvement and consolidation of the people of Ukraine.

Conservative Leader Criticizes 'Kravchukism'

LD1009163194 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1445 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev, 10 Sep—People's Deputy Stepan Khmara, chairman of the Ukrainian Conservative Republican Party (UKRP), delivered a program report called "Revival of the Ukrainian independent united state: problems and prospects" to the participants of the party's second congress. He harshly criticized the policy of Ukraine's leadership in the three years of independence. The UKRP chairman called this period "Kravchukism." According to the leader of the conservative republicans, "Kravchukism" means the betrayal of Ukraine's national interests, disparagement of national and human dignity, propaganda about Ukraine's inferiority complex, and the power of the mafia. Stepan Khmara reported that on average "25 million U.S. dollars escapes" from Ukraine every 24 hours. He expressed himself in favor of strengthening a unitary

Ukrainian state, noting that only the Crimean Tatar people have the right to autonomy. The UKRP chairman is against unilateral nuclear disarmament by Ukraine. With regard to cooperation with CIS countries, Stepan Khmara expressed the slogan "the CIS without Russia."

Following the speech by the UKRP chairman, the congress continued its work in a closed regime.

Kuchma Decree on Currency, Export Controls

WS1209144494 Kiev VYBIR in English 0803 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Decree signed by President Leonid Kuchma in Kiev on 7 September: "On Currency and Export Control"]

[Text] In order to enhance the currency and export control, I herein decree:

1. Within the space of one month, the National Bank and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine shall:

Amend the documents relating to control over the currency funds being received by the subjects of business activity of Ukraine from the export of goods (jobs, services). In particular, the National Bank and the state customs committee should provide the data about such funds in the authorized banks;

Amend the procedure of opening the accounts by said subjects in the authorized banks of Ukraine, of issuing the licenses for opening such accounts abroad, list the cases of opening such accounts in foreign banks;

Pursuant to Item 2, Article 16 of the Cabinet's decree of February 19, 1993, No. 15 "On the System of Currency Regulation and Control," define the amount of penalty imposed on the residents for false information in declaring their currency funds and property abroad.

2. Within two weeks, the Cabinet and the National Bank shall elaborate the legislative act specifying the financial operations involving the export of capital.

3. The Ministry of Foreign Economic Ties shall:

Using the information of customs bodies and tax authorities, apply such special sanction against said subjects as suspension of their foreign economic activity pursuant to Article 37 of the law on foreign economic activity in the event said subjects violated the law in opening their accounts abroad;

Provide, on a monthly basis, the State Customs Committee with the information concerning the prices for the goods (jobs, services) whose export is subject to licensing and quoting pursuant to the law.

4. This decree comes into force from the day of signing.

[Signed] President of Ukraine L. Kuchma
[Dated] September 7, 1994

Edict on Implementing Privatization Plan

WS1209145194 Kiev VYBIR in English 0803 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Resolution No. 604 issued by Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol in Kiev on 31 August: "On the Measures to Fulfill the Parliament's Resolution of July 29, 1994 'On Improvement of the Mechanism of Privatization in Ukraine and Enhancement of Control Over its Process'"]

[Text] The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine resolves:

1. To approve the measures concerning said parliament's resolution.

All ministries, other central executive bodies, the Crimean government, regional executive bodies shall provide proper fulfillment of said resolution and the state program on privatization for 1994.

2. The state property fund and its subsidiaries shall: Suspend, until the parliament's approval, registration of the state objects not subject to privatization, also conclusion of the sale-purchase and lease contracts pertaining to said objects.

Suspend conclusion of sale-purchase contracts relating to the objects in nonproduction sphere that are privatized through the lease with buyout until amending the law of Ukraine "On the Lease of Property of State-Run Enterprises and Organizations".

3. Pursuant to partial changes in the Cabinet's resolution of March 3, 1994, No. 146, said ministries and executive bodies shall, till October 5, 1994, elaborate the regional and Crimean programs of economic transformations for 1995.

The state property fund shall elaborate the state privatization programs taking into account the provisions set forth in said regional and sectoral programs.

4. Fulfillment of this resolution will be considered by the Cabinet in November, 1994.

5. Control over fulfillment of this resolution will be exercised by Vice-Premier V. Samoplavskyy.

[Signed] Premier of Ukraine V. Masol

Battle Foreseen Over National Bank Chief Post

WS1209145494 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 3 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Vladimir Katsman: "Attack on Viktor Yushchenko From the Left"]

[Text] One of the first issues to be discussed at the upcoming Supreme Council plenary session will most likely be a personnel matter concerning the National Bank chairman. A KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI correspondent has learned this from sources close to the parliament's leadership.

Current National Bank Chairman Viktor Yushchenko, judging from all the signs, can expect a fierce attack from the left, in particular, due to his adamant position on the issue of credits for the agricultural industry and industrial enterprises. Undoubtedly, Viktor Andriyovych will be reminded of other market "sins." After all, according to the same sources, all "leftist" parliamentary factions already began long ago to list all possible names of candidates to the office of National Bank chairman. It has not yet been ruled out that this office will be assumed by one of the financiers enjoying special regards of Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz.

It is obvious that President Leonid Kuchma's administration will not stand aloof from the developments connected with the personnel issue revolving around the National Bank chief. The battle for the office of National Bank chairman may then become the first round of this fall's "tug of war" between the two branches of power.

Government May Combine Nuclear Power Bodies

LD1309144494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1351 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By BUSINESS-TASS]

[Text] Moscow September 13 TASS—As it became known to BUSINESS-TASS on Tuesday, the Ukrainian government intends to consider changing the system regulating the nuclear power in Ukraine. The Ministry of the Environment proposes to set up a unified body for ensuring safety of the use of nuclear energy and technology. This is suggested to be done by unifying appropriate structures by the Ministry of the Environment and the State Committee for Nuclear Power. (At present this regulation of safety measures is ensured by these agencies and the Health Ministry). It is suggested that the State Committee for Nuclear Safety be dissolved. Leaders of the State Committee for Nuclear Safety of Ukraine, however, object to these proposals. They say there is no need for rearrangement. What is needed is to enhance effectiveness of the work of the regulating body, create normal legislative base, make the committee independent of organisations running nuclear power stations, and raise the salaries.

List To Revise Chernobyl-Affected Areas

LD1109162994 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev [no dateline as received]—The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine recently made public Resolution No. 600 on a new list of populated areas to be put into a category of the zone that suffered from the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station. Commenting on this resolution yesterday, Ukraine's Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol said it was prepared by the Ministry for Protection of Population from the Aftermath of the Chernobyl AES [nuclear electric power station] Accident and the Ministry of Health of Ukraine. He stressed that the resolution will be implemented gradually and the following mechanism for its implementation was proposed for the time being: In compliance with the above resolution, new populated areas will be added to the already existing list. Concerning the fact that many populated areas are to be withdrawn from the Chernobyl zone category (there are about 600 of them), the prime minister gave assurances that the resolution "will not be applied so far" to these populated areas, "the situation will be studied."

Vitaliy Masol said that in the near future representatives of the Ministry for Protection of Population from the Aftermath of the Chernobyl AES Accident and heads of five oblast councils, subject to this resolution, will hold a meeting because, according to the above heads of oblast councils, nobody listens to their opinion. Meanwhile, the residents of the cities and villages, who have been deprived of privileges as a result of the adoption of this resolution, are ready for civil protest actions.

Funds Allocated for Return of Deported Tatars

LD1109163694 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Simferopol, 10 Sep—The Crimean Tatar newspaper HOLOS KRYMU [VOICE OF CRIMEA] reported in its 9 September issue that Osman Adamanov [name as received], acting chairman of Crimea's State Committee for Nationalities, and Reshat Kendzhe [name as received], a deputy in Crimea's Supreme Council, had been in Kiev from 19 August to 2 September with the purpose of resolving a set of problems connected with the return to Crimea of Crimean Tatars and citizens of other nationalities deported in accordance with ethnic indications.

The meetings with Ivan Kuras, minister for humanitarian policy issues in Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers, Mykola Shulha, minister for nationalities, and Yuriy Byelukha [name as received], head of the section for issues of national policy and cults, showed that the changes that have occurred in Ukraine's higher echelons of power have not affected Kiev's friendly attitude to the fate of the Crimean Tatar people. The plan of action for 1995 was agreed, for the implementation of which Ukraine's Government intends to allocate 4.45 trillion karbovantsi. Ukraine's Government is prepared to grant most favored status to all enterprises, including foreign ones, which work for the program of returning deported peoples.

Study Shows Country No Longer Attracting Migrants

AU1209143994 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 9 Sep 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Ukraine Is Losing Former Attractiveness for Migrants"]

[Text] According to the research by candidate of economic sciences Tetyana Petrova, Ukraine, which used to attract migrants from other republics of the former Soviet Union, has recently failed to evoke such admiration. Over 1993, the size of Ukraine's population has increased by 50,000 persons, among which only 31,000 are capable of working. Taking into account the fact that the size of Ukraine's labor resources constitutes 28 million persons, the quantitative results of migrations have not affected the manpower resource situation in Ukraine. It must be specifically stressed that failure to attract migrants has become a kind of phenomenon characterizing contemporary Ukraine, which always, with the exception of the period of the famine in the 1930's, maintained the status of a region with favorable migration conditions, and hundreds of thousands of migrants strived to enter its territory.

Former President Kravchuk Views Past, Future

WS1309134094 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 3 Sep 94 p 5

[Interview with former Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk by Oksana Telenchi; place and date not given: "The Main Thing Is To Maintain Peace and Harmony in Ukraine, so That Our Children and Grandchildren Live..."]

[Text] ***Not long ago, it was not customary to write about former leaders. Currently, many people, particularly our readers, would like to learn: What is our former president doing; what does he think of current state problems?***

Our correspondent has met with Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk.

[Telenchi] Leonid Makarovych, during your vacation in Truskavets, the consumption of water in well-room No. 1 increased from nine cubic meters to 12. I met there an elderly woman who specially came there to talk to you, and she was asking at what time you would come to the well-room to drink "Naftusya" mineral water. She wanted to talk only with you, "because Leonid Makarovych is good, and he will understand me." The countrywoman said that although she had voted for Ukrainian independence and two times for you, it is now hard for her to understand why her family hardly makes ends meet. What good did independence do for the common people?

[Kravchuk] We are proceeding down the path of fighting for independence and statehood after cataclysms which are hard to explain to the common man in one conversation.

[Telenchi] However, such people are in a majority...

[Kravchuk] They are in a majority, and one must give them an explanation. Last year I visited Switzerland. They celebrated the 700th anniversary of their confederation. Many states and nations all over the world went through this path 300, 600, or even 700 years ago. We, unfortunately, had to go through it in this century, moreover, after such losses! We lost our dignity, the philosophy of our "ego," and everything connected with this. This loss has led to a situation when everything is being measured with sausage. It is clear that we cannot reject this sausage philosophy, this is normal life, since man cannot deal solely with philosophy, science, or religion. Yet, could we make it our business, as we did in 1991, to win independence and immediately improve living standards? A small family begins with adversities. When it achieves something, it passes on certain living standards to its children, the children add something of theirs to pass on to their grandchildren. Unfortunately, we are beginning with nothing. The current generation, however, cannot understand this and says: We have sloped downwards, our state was once rich. In 1975, one could sell three empty bottles and live through a day. People are currently divided into those who want to work, but the state has not created appropriate conditions for them—there are no economic, land, monetary, or tax reforms. There are people who do not know how to work under the new conditions, they are completely useless and confused. By the way, there was a time in history, when after the abolishment of the villain law, people would come to a landlord asking to restore it. People would graze or milk a cow, and they were not interested weather it mooed or howled. Now they say the same thing: It is better at a kolkhoz, because there is no responsibility. One can survive somehow and even grow fat. I know that in many villages people store goods in their attics that would last three years... This means that they have not yet reached that superior attitude—the attitude of a master, who is responsible and able to govern everything. To hand over property does not yet guarantee that a man will use this property in a proper way. There are people who do not want to work in any system, they are everywhere. It is they who create the highest tensions. [Ukrainian Prime Minister] Vitaliy Andriyovych Masol has recently cited certain figures regarding the coal industry. More people are currently working on the surface than underground, meaning more than during the Soviet era. All kinds of committees and organizations are demanding wages, and the production of coal is declining. What if there were private mines and masters? People are carrying buckets and sacks from the fields. They steal. I support the presidential edict on the fight against crime, but the mass media sometimes disappoint me. Our television reports that a fierce battle has been waged to implement the edict, but it uses materials from March and April. One can compromise everything in the world in this way.

[Telenchi] Leonid Makarovych, you often speak about the evolution of your opinions over the last years. Psychologists, however, claim that after the age of 45 a man, in general, is not able to change his views, philosophy...

[Kravchuk] After the age of 45 we begin to asses everything more precisely; certain conservatism appears. For example, I have to learn a foreign language to become an ambassador. I calculate—45 plus five equals 50. Perhaps I will not cope with this. I have said this as an example.

This does not mean, though, that a man does not change his opinions about the sense of life.

[Telenchi] A doctor told me an interesting story. He presented his lover with a bouquet of Gledia Deo [as published] roses. She smelled the flowers and... she turned her face away indifferently, because they did not have any fragrance. The confused doctor examined the bush from which the roses had been cut, and noticed that the queen of flowers had been grafted on a wild rose. The beauty had been preserved, but the unique scent had not, since the genetic root had disappeared. Did you really emerge three or four years ago as a state builder?

[Kravchuk] I did not, by no means. No. There is always something in a man originating from his childhood. I was born into a religious family, I used to go to a church, and I was baptized. In my life, I saw the collectivization and occupation of our country. I saw the humiliation of my brothers and sisters by the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs and by nationalists. Until the age of 16-18, I lived in such a family, so I cannot say that the scales fell from my eyes suddenly. Later, I had an opportunity to read, come to learn, and analyze certain things, but still my evolution was not that quick. Approximately in 1987, I came to the conclusion that our state needed more independence.

In 1989, I came forward with the declaration of economic and political independence of Ukraine, and the Communist Party of Ukraine [KPU] Central Committee plenum approved it. My position was not supported only with regard to the KPU. This means that the idea of independence was not born in 1990. I wanted independence when I was still in the party. My evolution lay in the fact that the notion and principles of independence and sovereignty were always being enriched. What I think of Ukraine's independence, integrity, and statehood now and what I imagined in 1989 are two different things. Thus, my example demonstrates that a man changes his notions of the principles of social development.

[Telenchi] Pavlo Hloba predicts that you will return to political life at a very high level, but in a new quality. What do you predict for Ukraine and yourself?

[Kravchuk] I will fight for Ukraine, for the state, regardless of who and where I am. If I am elected, I will be a deputy, and I will patronize a fund for supporting art. Everything, however, will depend on the situation in Ukraine. I do not want to leave the political scene. Not impinging upon the powers of the new authorities, I want to help them resolve problems, which I broadly saw from the height of my power, in a solid, serious, and civilized manner. I stand against the following interpretation of the elections: Kuchma was supported by the East, Kravchuk—by the West. Such an assessment contradicts the statistics and is politically erroneous. The Ukrainian president must defend the interests of Ukraine, as Yeltsin must defend the interests of Russia, and Clinton—of the United States. Otherwise it will be a president of other interests on our land. I have repeatedly addressed people and explained that we—both those who voted for Kuchma and those who voted for Kravchuk—must currently stand for Ukraine.

[Telenchi] First disagreements, however, regarding our language, are apparent...

[Kravchuk] There is a beautiful wording developed by the Supreme Council—the Ukrainian language is the state language. In regions compactly populated by representatives of other nationalities, other languages are used along with Ukrainian. Is it not a beautiful wording? It would be natural to write it down as the law. Even during the Soviet Ukraine, it was written down in the law that Ukrainian is the state language. Why are we again returning to this issue and want to introduce two state languages? Why should there be two languages, and not five? Do we introduce state languages according to the size of the population? Why cannot Jews, whose population amounts to 400,000 in Ukraine, speak of their state language? Why is this issue being addressed in such a sharp manner? Because after the National Committee for State of Emergency, everyone began to speak in Ukrainian in the Supreme Council. Now it is being ignored...

[Telenchi] Leonid Makarovych, the "bisons" [refers to politicians who signed the agreement in Belovezhskaya forest inhabited by European bisons] are leaving the scene. Belarus has already made certain concessions...

[Kravchuk] It came as no surprise to me what happened to Belarus or other CIS states. They have never addressed the issue of their independence seriously. When I addressed the issue of dividing all the fleets and the gold and diamond funds for the first time, everybody replied: We do not need this, meaning that everyone saw their independence under Russia. I was sometimes ashamed at those meetings to see state leaders lose their dignity, at the level of the old African attitude—though I do not want to offend anyone—toward the leaders. I always wanted to be a leader of a state which really wants to be independent, sovereign, and equal. Ukraine will be a state! I would like very much for Russian politicians to understand this. If they support the Russian-speaking population or Russians living in Ukraine, who have more rights than Ukrainians, this can lead to a conflict. The situation in Ukraine will then become complex, and this could affect Russia as well. We must be led not by Russia's love for Ukraine or Ukraine's love for Russia, but by the alignment of political forces. Europe needs Ukraine as a state which stabilizes the geopolitical situation. Let Russia cope with its problems. In many places in Russia, wages have not been paid since April. I have estimated that Belarus needs 1.5 trillion rubles for the first day. There is only one way for Russia—to make everyone an equal partner and not artificially create political and economic barriers.

[Telenchi] Have you noticed that a sort of "iconization" of Leonid Kravchuk has begun in Galicia? You heard so many declarations of love during your vacation.

[Kravchuk] I was asked to sign autographs and told: We love you, you are a beautiful man, but we voted for Kuchma. Why? Because you are a soft man, and we believe that Kuchma will restore order with an iron hand. They became used to Stalin's hand. However, Leonid Danylovych is a different man. I do not want to see a Kuchma-Kravchuk opposition. The main issue for me is to maintain peace and harmony in Ukraine, so that our children and grandchildren live...

[Telenchi] Thank you for the conversation, Leonid Makarovych.

Belarus

Minsk To Liberalize Foreign Trade

LD1209174894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1300 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Belarus is to do away with most export licenses and quotas before the end of the year. It will retain them only for textile goods, dual-purpose goods and certain kinds of mineral resources, Sergey Veksha, first deputy minister for foreign economic ties, told Interfax.

Only imported goods which could pose a threat to national security or Belarussians' health will be licensed, he added.

According to the ministry, Belarus now sets quotas and requires licenses for the export of grains, mineral fertilizers, timber, ethanol, textile products, precious metals and alloys as well as requiring licenses for the import of pesticides and industrial waste for recycling.

Veksha said that Belarussian customs tariffs, in effect since June 1994, were identical with Russian ones, while he did not rule out the possibility that Belarus would adopt its own tariffs.

He said that the number of joint ventures in Belarus was expected to increase before the end of 1994. There are nearly 1500 of them at present; before the end of the year another 1500 are expected to be created plus 500 foreign companies. According to Veksha, direct foreign investments in the Belarussian economy amounted to $500 million.

According to the CIS Statistics Committee, Belarus exported $476 million worth of goods to points beyond the CIS and imported to the tune of $304 million.

Chyhir Ready To Resume Talks on Monetary Union

LD1209204494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1830 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Speaking at a news conference in Minsk Monday, Belarusian Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir said his government was ready to return to talks with Moscow on merging the monetary systems of the two countries. However, he pointed out that "it is more in place to speak about bringing in line economic indicators," in particular keeping down galloping inflation in Belarus which reaches 40 percent against 5-7 percent in Russia.

Vice Prime Minister Valeryy Kokarev told the news conference that Belarus would reimburse up to 30 percent of its multi-million debt for Russian gas by October 15.

Belarus will also pay off its debt for Russian oil supplies within the next ten days, Kokarev said.

He added that current payments for fuel come to correspond to their consumption in Belarus, that is why "the debt for gas has not increased over the last ten days." This became possible thanks to the strict measures taken against debtors for gas by President Alyaksandr Lukashenka, Kokarev said.

One of Lukashenka's first decrees authorized reducing up to the complete cessation of gas supplies to enterprises which do not pay off their debts by a fixed date.

Military Concerned Over Russian Troop Pullout

WS1209115794 Minsk VO SLAVU RODINY in Russian 8 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Captain Lieutenant Andrey Drob: "On the Agenda—Russian Troop Withdrawal"]

[Text] A briefing held at the Defense Ministry on 6 September was devoted to questions arising in the course of the withdrawal of Russian troops from the territory of the Republic of Belarus. Yet, the talks were not about solemn farewell-ceremonies, but about Russian military towns and the environment—the pollution with radioactive waste and aviation and rocket fuel, dumping grounds for decomissioned equipment, and thousands of pieces of antiquated ammunition left by our brothers in arms. This was emphasized at the briefing—which was also attended by the commanders of Russian and certain Belarusian units—by Lieutenant General Anatol Kastenka, defense minister of the Republic of Belarus, as well as by his deputies and other high officials.

Being aware of the colossal expenditures which could be caused by the ill-considered withdrawal of Russian troops, representatives of the Cabinet of Ministers, the State Property Committee, the State Committee for Issues of Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant Disaster, oblast and rayon executive committees, the Customs Inspection, the Interior Ministry, and specialists in use of land also attended the briefing. The other side was represented in Minsk by Lieutenant General I. Kalugin, commander of the Russian Federation Long Range Air Force, and Lieutenant General L. Stolyarov, commander of the 10th Air Army.

The briefing was opened by the defense minister. A. Kastenka was really alarmed by a comprehensive report by the Military Inspection on violations committed during departure from military towns by the Russian Federation units. His speech was hence emotional, and he promised that units violating the agreement on troop withdrawal would not be allowed to leave the territory of our Republic.

Colonel [Col.] V. Yakhnitski, deputy defense minister for issues of construction and housing, also expressed his concern over the state of affairs. He noted that, in accordance with documents signed, the Russian side should abandon 56 military towns, out of which ten are used jointly with Belarus. In 1993, 35 military towns were handed over to Belarus. While the Russian Strategic Missile Troops are fulfilling the agreements painstakingly, the Air Force Troops are not. Cases of pilferage have been revealed in four military towns; protection of material values is improperly organized; Russian servicemen are often violating Belarusian legislation on housing (there have been cases of presenting counterfeit certificates concerning family members). Certain commanders of Russian units do not hurry to hand over housing facilities to local authorities, thus, they make it impossible to prepare them for winter. All this was reported by Col. V. Yakhnitski.

Lieutenant General A. Kastenka recently issued Order No. 351 "On Establishing a Commission for Overseeing the Withdrawal of the Russian Federation Strategic Military Units Temporarily Deployed on Belarusian Territory." Major General Ye. Nikulin, chief of the National Control and Inspection Agency, was appointed commission chairman, and Major General O. Putintsev, commander of the Rocket and Artillery Troops—deputy chairman. The commission chairman will personally approve passes for troop withdrawal and submit them to Lieutenant General L. Maltsev, first deputy defense minister and chief of the Armed Forces General Staff.

Lukashenka Continues Treatment in Hospital

LD1209201494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1705 GMT 12 Sep 94

[By BELINFORM-TASS]

[Text] Minsk September 12 TASS—Byelorussian [Belarusian] President Alyaksander Lukashenka, suffering from an attack of radiculitis, was reported to be in a satisfactory condition, BELINFORM learned from the president's administration today.

The president remains in hospital where he continues therapy. Although doctors told him to stay in bed, the president is working hard. He has signed 11 decrees since he was hospitalized on September 7. At present, Lukashenka is preparing to attend a conference of regional, city and district councils of people's deputies scheduled for September 16.

Popular Front Appeals for Pre-Election Bloc

WS1309084294 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0730 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] The Belarusian Popular Front (BPF) holds that cleavage in the national democratic forces cannot be tolerated in this historic period, and suggests that the leaders of the public and political organizations that share the principles of independence, democracy and restoration of the national culture should consider the possibility to establish a pre-election bloc. This is pointed out in an appeal which was made at the last session of the BPF Council. According to the council, such consolidation is necessary for inflicting a decisive defeat on pro-communist and imperial forces at all elective bodies. At the session speakers pointed out that the BPF should have not only a strong representation at the parliament, up to gaining a majority, but also win a victory during elections to the local soviets of people's deputies. BPF leader Zyanon Paznyak declared that the front would remain in opposition to the regime because the regime remains the same.

As for the relationship between the BPF and the President, they, according to Z. Paznyak, will be constructive in the field of prevention of corruption.

Moldova

Foreign Minister Leaves for Visit to Romania

LD1209151894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1135 GMT 12 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetski]

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau] September 12 TASS—Moldavian [Moldovan] Foreign Minister Mikhail Popov left on an official visit to Romania today. During his two-day stay in Bucharest, Popov will meet with President Ion Iliescu, Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu and other Romanian leaders.

Next Round of Dniester Talks Will Be 'Tricky'

MM1309102394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 3

[Commentary by Sergey Knyazkov: "Quest for Mutually Acceptable Solution on Dniester Region Will Continue, But Next Meeting of Experts Will Not Be Easy"]

[Text] One of Moldavia's [Moldova's] most painful problems—settling the consequences of the Dniester armed conflict—has again surfaced...in connection with the recent events surrounding the Russian 14th Army and the progress at the Russian-Moldavian [Moldovan] talks. According to Grigoriy Marakutsa, speaker of the Dniester Moldavian Republic parliament, the Dniester side, which took part in these talks in August as an observer, walked out because it disagreed with the decision on a three-year timetable for the withdrawal of the Army, "adopted without taking Tiraspol's opinion into account." The sychronization between the Army's withdrawal and the settlement of the Dniester problem mentioned in the agreement, Grigoriy Marakutsa believes, is "mere rhetoric that is not backed up by any specific measures."

Incidentally, Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the Russian 14th Army, has no illusions on this score either. Answering journalists' questions about the withdrawal of the Russian Army, ITAR-TASS reports, the general said with his characteristic bluntness that "the Russian Army will not be withdrawn, at least until such time as the international community has ensured stability and peace in the Dniester region."

Yes, I am afraid this may annoy some people, but the Dniester region has been living its own life separate from Moldavia for several years now. All the attributes of statehood have been created and are operating, and progress in settling the Dniester region problem is often slowed today by certain structures in Kishinev [Chisinau]. One obstacle, for instance, is the extremely negative attitude in Kishinev toward the introduction of its own monetary unit—the coupon—in the Dniester region.

Nevertheless, Tiraspol and Kishinev experts are continuing work on elaborating a draft special legal status for the Dniester Moldavian Republic. Another meeting between them is planned for next Thursday.

"Each side will bring its own proposals to this meeting," Republic of Moldavia Foreign Minister Nicolae Osmocescu told an ITAR-TASS correspondent. "Only after looking at them will it be possible to make any assumptions about how the process of settling the Dniester problem will go in the future," he stressed.

However, it is already clear that the upcoming meeting of experts will be tricky.

Parties Criticize Prosecutor's Office Request

LD1209210394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1830 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] The Moldovan Allied Democratic Congress sees a request by the republic's Prosecutor's Office to the Justice Ministry as an attempt by the current Moldovan leadership to remove opposition parties from the political scene and bar them from local elections.

The Moldovan Prosecutor's Office proposed on September 2 that the Justice Ministry suspend the activities of political parties whose program documents run counter to the current legislation and stipulations of the Constitution.

In a statement published in Kishinev [Chisinau] Monday, the congress pointed out that the actions by the Prosecutor's Office were "legally unfounded and represented an attack upon the multi-party political system and democratic principles which may lead to the implementation of the ambitions of the current Kishinev rulers to execute the principles of only one party and entirely restore the Communist dictatorship."

Other parties also made similar statements. In particular, deputy chairman of the equal rights movement Unitatya-Equality, chairman of the parliamentary commission for human rights and ethnic majorities, Vladimir Solonar, said that "the actions by the Prosecutor's Office are at least absurd and cause a number of problems. They by no means promote the establishment of democracy in Moldova."

Kazakhstan

Envoy on Ties With Russia, Eurasian Union

MM1209124194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Sep 94 First Edition p 5

[Unattributed interview with Tair Mansurov, Kazakhstan's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Russian Federation, as part of the "Newspaper Within a Newspaper" feature devoted to KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA; place and date not given: "The Peoples Are Ahead of the Politicians"]

[Text] [KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA] Tair Aymukhametovich, President Nursultan Nazarbayev made a visit to the Russian Federation not so long ago. What was its significance?

[Mansurov] It was the first official visit to the Russian Federation by our head of state. We have traditionally enjoyed active contacts at the level of presidents, heads of government, and leaders of ministries and departments, but the innovation here was that the visit was held in accord with an international protocol.

Its importance is that the agreements reached, in the opinion of official state organs, the public, and the mass media, reflect the objective need for further improvement of bilateral relations in political, economic, military, humanitarian, and other spheres. Take, for example, the Memorandum on the Basic Principles for Resolving Questions Connected with Citizenship or the Agreement on Conditions for the Utilization of the Baykonur Cosmodrome; they will certainly have the most direct influence on the development of cooperation, mutual understanding, and good neighborliness. Even the short space of time that has elapsed since the adoption of those two important documents has showed that our peoples expect positive results from their practical implementation.

Nursultan Abishevich is absolutely right in thinking that Kazakhstan and Russia can and must enter the 21st century as two powerful states which, in close integration with each other, will provide a reliable basis for their peoples to lead normal lives.

[KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA] Do you consider that optimal decisions have been made regarding Baykonur?

[Mansurov] There are many opinions today both in Kazakhstan and Russia regarding how optimal the option adopted, namely the leasing of Baykonur and Leninsk, is. I have to say that specialists and representatives of various interested departments of Kazakhstan and Russia discussed several options relating to the utilization of the cosmodrome's technical, scientific, and production potential over a period of almost two years.

This complex is one of the greatest scientific and technical achievements of mankind. Baykonur is one of the most striking symbols of our history. We had to do everything to ensure that Baykonur would in future provide Kazakhstan and Russia with a high standard of space research and that the national economy and science would enjoy all the modern achievements of civilization. I think that Presidents Nazarbayev and Yelstin appended their signatures to a document which objectively reflects the interests of Kazakhstan and Russia today.

[KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA] What do you, as Kazakhstan's ambassador to the Russian Federation, see as the key problems of Kazakhstani-Russian relations?

[Mansurov] Kazakhstani-Russian relations mean first and foremost the relations between 148 million Russians and 17 million Kazakhstanis. We certainly have a paramount need for each other. Unfortunately, the collapse of the Union undermined our economies and disrupted our scientific, technical, cultural, and spiritual links. Output has been continuing to fall for several years now.

The most important thing in Kazakhstani-Russian relations is to ensure normal integration. Interconnected processes are under way in Kazakhstan and Russia, and we must tackle problems together.

The problem of nonpayments has become a serious destabilizing factor of late. It has effectively paralyzed enterprises. And whereas previously fixers would wear themselves out dashing around the whole Union in search of spare parts, now hordes of general directors travel throughout the CIS in an effort to extract the money owed their company. But the problem is not getting solved. Moreover, it is being made worse by the sluggishness of the National Bank of Kazakhstan and the Central Bank of Russia. Today, when we have our own national currency—the tenge—with which the currency of other states may be freely purchased, you would think the National Bank would be able to ensure the movement of money and its payment into accounts in Russia in the shortest possible time. But that does not happen.

Just like two years ago, all settlements are effected through the cash transaction centers of the Central Bank of Russia and the National Bank of Kazakhstan. However, the situation during this time has changed.

What is a cash transacton center? It is an anachronism today. Imagine two water conduits, several meters in diameter, joined together by a one-inch pipe which creates high pressure around payments. And this despite the fact that hundreds of Russian and Kazakhstani enterprises have already established business relations. But settlements between them take months.

Given this situation, the National Bank of Kazakhstan should be more active, imparting greater dynamism to monetary, credit, and bank relations with the Central Bank of Russia. I, incidentally, do not understand at all how D. Sembayev, chairman of the National Bank of Kazakhstan, can have failed to meet with his counterpart V. Gersahchenko in the last six months to tackle the very important questions of cooperation with Russia in this sphere, thereby dumping these problems on the top officials of state.

I think that, in order to tackle this problem, it is necessary to designate a group of 10 banks entitled to effect this kind of direct settlement transaction between ourselves. This method has proven itself worldwide.

Or take another disturbing problem: This current year, like last year, people in Russia or Kazakhstan have been unable to subscribe to the neighboring country's periodicals. The delivery of Russian newspapers for Kazakstani readers is poor, and vice versa. The Kazakhstani and Russian Communications Ministries are not for some reason paying due heed to this. Yet this is a serious problem. It has an effect one way or another on people's feelings and their behavior. If people are unable to receive a newspaper, grant, money transfer, or parcel they do, you will agree, experience considerable frustration. Or why to date, after having launched quite a number of communications satellites from Baykonur, have we been unable to provide about 10 Kazakhstani rayons with the programs of Kazakhstan Television's Channel One and Two?

[KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA] A plan for the formation of a Eurasian Union of states proposed by the president of Kazakhstan was recently published in the Kazakhstani and then the Russian press. How has it been evaluated by Russia's political circles?

[Mansurov] The idea is neither an empty nor an academic one. It stems from life itself.

If you recall, many political leaders long before August 1991 were concerned by one thing—"speeding up," taking greater sovereignty, and establishing the state independence of their republics. Nursultan Abishevich was perhaps the only one who back then foresaw the consequences of an uncontrolled breakup. The disintegration, sundering established links and generating conflicts, including military conflicts, simply shattered people's customary way of life. Hence the exacerbation of ethnic tension, refugees, frustration in the sphere of citizenship...—phenomena unknown to us for at least two generations. The president's idea and, subsequently, his plan for a Eurasian Union forms part and parcel of the consistent efforts toward integration undertaken by him since the very beginning of the splitting up of the former state.

The president's integrationist ideas are supported by such well-known politicians as S. Shakhray, V. Shumeyko, and G. Yavlinskiy, and G. Zyuganov is sympathetic to them. They have also found supporters among the leaders of CIS countries. They have been supported by Askar Akayev and Eduard Shevardnadze. Major Russian academics, particularly economists and political scientists, have regarded them positively. In my view, the Eurasian Union should be carefully studied by those who seriously think about the future of our states. A few days ago I took part in a roundtable discussion on this topic organized by the Party of Russian Unity and Accord's parliamentary faction in the Russian State Duma, headed by S. Shakhray, and then took part in another conference organized by the international forum "Toward a New Accord." My recent meetings with A. Volskiy, president of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneiurs; N. Ryzhkov, chairman of the Moscow Club of Intellectuals; R. Gaynutdin, mufti of the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of the Central European Region of Russia; and conversations with the leaders of diplomatic missions in Moscow have showed that the plan for the formation of a Eurasian Union of states is received by everyone with great understanding and approval. Many of my interlocutors here have expressed themselves in favor of extensive discussion of the plan and have proposed that its next stage be conducted in Alma-Ata [Almaty].

Diplomats To Be Trained in Moscow

LD1209164794 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1050 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] [No dateline as received]—Kazakh Foreign Minister Kanat Saudabayev received Anatoliy Torkunov, rector of the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) under the Russian Foreign Ministry, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, and a member of the Russian Foreign Ministry Collegium on 9 September. They discussed in full detail the possibilities of cooperation between the two Foreign Ministries in the field of training diplomats for Kazakhstan. Saudabayev has stressed that the MGIMO remains one of the leading centers for training international experts. The Kazakh Foreign Ministry, where quite a few graduates of this institute are working now, is interested in fruitful cooperation.

An accord has been reached on working out a long-term agreement that will determine the main guidelines of cooperation between the two states in training diplomats. Kazakhstanis will be educated at MGIMO, and besides, curriculae, textbooks, manuals, and specialists will be exchanged. The interlocutors paid special attention to cooperation in building up a specialized institute under the Kazakh Foreign Ministry.

Details of Economy Minister's Abuse of Power Case

LD1209165994 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1050 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] [No dateline as received]—Much ado and...nothing.

The parliament, having decided to put an end to the "Urkumbayev's case," finds itself in an impasse after a two-day heated debate, as the developments show. Although even the old-timers people's deputies do not remember such heated passions, everyone either left the hall or sat in complete prostration and shock. The deputies voted three times in succession but, nevertheless, have not come to any conclusion whatsoever. The score-board with the number of votes showed without any bias: Neither one of the proposals was passed. There were three proposals—to consent and allow Procurator General Tuyakbayev to institute legal proceedings and arrest Economy Minister Mars Urkumbayev; to consent but without arresting him; to disagree with the Procurator General.

Details of this case are quite well known. While the Procurator General's Office kept silent, Mars Urkumbayev threw light on the situation in numerous interviews: He was being pursued by the reform opponents. As the minister had said, he was among the first ranks of those who were striving for the triumph of the market economy in our republic. He organized companies that tackled ecology problems at the expense of their profits from doing research, he set up commercial banks with the aim of attracting foreign investments, and he sponsored talented students, giving them money.

The Procurator General, although, insisted on quite the opposite: His office prevented the economy minister from buying a cottage worth 400,000 dollars for 15,000 dollars because the minister in this case was encroaching on state property. How can the man who was in charge of our country's whole economy say that he was not aware of the real price? He also sent his friend's daughter to study in the United States, ignoring the necessity to sit tests, and, besides, she was sent on the quota given for another oblast, of which she was not a resident. What about the car given as a present to one of our renowned writers at the expense of the local budget? All nearest relatives of Urkumbayev, without any exception, are heads of commercial structures and they all have received soft loans from Urkumbayev, who was the then head of South Kazakhstan Oblast Administration. Urkumbayev himself occupied a number of various posts at the same time—and that is against the law as well.

So, while discussing these facts and deciding whether there are enough grounds for instituting criminal proceedings, or whether these were just involuntary abuses of his official post, the deputies spoke so much and so emotionally that by the end of the day they themselves became totally confused and muddled up.

On the one hand, one has to take into account the conclusions reached by a special fact-finding commission of lawyers. The commission was set up by the Supreme Kenges to investigate this case and has found additional violations in Urkumbayev's work. It is difficult to ignore a statement by professional MP Ibrayev, who was the former head of the South Kazakhstan Oblast Council, who spoke at the session. [Words indistinct] but the soviets dissolved themselves shortly afterward and the issue remained unsettled, poised in mid-air.

On the other hand, Academician Zimanov has said quite reasonably that one cannot see any profit-seeking in Urkumbayev's deeds, and the Procurator's Office could not accuse the minister of being self-interested. Then, why should Urkumbayev be brought to the court? Is it not better to impeach him as a minister?

Putting it in a nutshell, the parliament has not arrived at any conclusion. This gave grounds to Urkumbayev's supporters to speak about his complete and convincing victory. But, for that victory to become realistically shaped, the Supreme Kenges has to adopt as a written document their official decision. Otherwise, the deputies will reprimand the media for an excessive politicization of this case, and the nation will again speechlessly gaze at all this bustle in the higher echelons of power.

[Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 1406 GMT on 12 September transmits the following: "Criminal proceedings against Mars Urkumbayev, Kazakhstan's economics minister, former member of the Kazakhstan Supreme Soviet, are stopped. Zharmahan Tuyakbayev, the Kazakhstan procurator-general, announced this at a news conference on Monday. The procurator said he had to submit to the decision of the national parliament and give up attempts to bring about the arrest of the high official and put him on trial."]

Nazarbayev on Reforms in Pavlodar Region

LD1209181794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1524 GMT 12 Sep 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] President Nursultan Nazarbayev, who began a working trip to the Pavlodar region on Monday, is going to look the situation in that industrial region, the chief of the presidential secretariat Altai Tleuberdin has said.

President Nazarbayev is going to visit a number of newly opened industries and meet with workers to hear their opinion of progress in economic reforms in Kazakhstan.

Observers believe that one of the topics high on the agenda would be President Nazarbayev's recent call on the country's businessmen to sign a treaty of national accord.

Nazarbayev believes that for Kazakhstan the consolidation of all branches of power and of society would be the chief factor for resolving the main problem, that of ending the crisis, expanding reforms and fostering democracy.

As he addressed a conference of entrepreneurs several days ago, President Nazarbayev said that in his message to parliament last June he called for signing a treaty of accord, but Parliament ignored his request. President Nazarbayev asked businessmen to initiate such an agreement and said he would be the first to sign it.

President Nazarbayev said that Kazakhstan was about to leave behind its worst problems since it gained sovereignty and introduced a national currency in November

1993. He compared the current situation with that in Russia at the end in 1993 and said that only social and political stability would help bring about an economic recovery and attract foreign investors.

On the list of the government's priority targets he mentioned a monthly inflation of 8-10

toward the end of the year and the stabilization of the tenge exchange rate and prices. Nazarbayev believes that the government must cancel support for unprofitable enterprises and subsidies for bread, whose price is a mere one- twelfth of that in Russia.

President Nazarbayev said that the country's financial situation left no chance of considerably supporting commodity producers, although over the past two years Kazakhstan has received 3.5 billion dollars of investments.

The schedule of President Nazarbayev's to Pavlodar region includes visits to the Arai joint stock company (furniture manufacturing), Vtorchermet plant (welding rod production), Medpolimer factory and oil refinery.

In Ekibastuz President Nazarbayev will visit a building materials plant, the Ekibastuzshakhtstroi plant, and the Vostochny and Bogatyr open pits of the Ekibastuzugol association and a number of rural districts.

Congress of Political Parties Calls for Unity

LD1209180194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1548 GMT 12 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Mainayev]

[Text] Bishkek September 12 TASS—The Congress of Democratic Forces of Kirgizia [Kyrgyzstan] which was held in the capital of the republic urged the Kirgiz people today to unite in order to defend the constitution and freedoms. The congress gathered over 300 delegates from different parties and movements.

Participants in the congress adopted a resolution demanding to create normal conditions for holding the final session of the parliament, setting up a Central Election Commission with the participation of all parties and a simultaneous re-election of a president and the parliament in March 1995.

Only the Human Rights Movement expressed a standpoint differing from the common view, and put forward its own version of elections to the legislative assembly.

A conference of centrist parties was convened today. They support on the whole the steps of the president but demand that he decree re-elections of the Central Election Commission and include into it representatives of all nine registered parties in the republic.

The opening of the extraordinary session of the parliament is scheduled for September 13 this year.

Ekibastuz, Russian Power Stations Set Up Joint Company

MM1309102794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Sep 94 First Edition p 5

[Report by Sergey Gorbunov as part of the "Newspaper Within a Newspaper" feature devoted to KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA: "'Interugol' Is Advantageous to Everyone"]

[Text] The "Ekibastuzugol," "Sverdlovskenergo," and "Chelyabinskenergo" Joint-Stock Associations and the Omsk and Troitsk State Regional Electric Power Stations have signed a founding document on the creation of the "Interugol" Open-Type Interstate Society. A qualitatively new basis has been laid down in a partnership between Kazakhstan's coal industry and the Urals and Siberian power industry. Whereas previously their relations were of the buy-and-sell type (the Ekibastuz people dispatched coal, and the power workers paid for it), the creation of "Interugol" has put an end to this. In order to obtain low-ash and inexpensive coal, the Urals and Siberian power systems must invest funds in modernizing Ekibastuz pits and constructing coal-neutralizing installations. Their outlay will be taken into account when determining the price of the energy fuel dispatched to them. So this union is advantageous to everyone.

Kyrgyzstan

Parliament Announces Extraordinary Session

LD1309000594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2036 GMT 12 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[Text] Bishkek, 13 Sep—The opening of an extraordinary session of the parliament of Kyrgyzstan was announced in Bishkek today. On the eve, Monday, the Congress of Democratic Forces appealed to the people of Kyrgyzstan to unite to defend the Constitution and freedom. It gathered more than 300 delegates from a wide variety of parties and movements. The resolution adopted at the meeting contained the requirement that normal conditions should be provided for holding the final session of parliament, for the setting up of an electoral commission with the participation of all parties, and for holding simultaneous re-elections of the president and parliament in March 1995.

No Session Held 13 Sep

LD1309092994 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0800 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Kirghizia's [Kyrgyzstan's] parliament did not hold a session today as planned as only one third of deputies turned up. Our correspondent Vladimir Fedorov said most deputies were for pre-term elections to a new professional parliament. A number of opposition parties and movements held a congress earlier and accused the president of usurping power and of rejecting democratic values. Askar Akayev himself believes that the current parliament has used up all its resources and is now hindering economic, social, and political reform. He believes Kirghizia's democratic transformation is now irreversible, making direct presidential rule out of the question.

Akayev Says Parliament Ought To Be 'Revitalized'

LD1209182094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1524 GMT 12 Sep 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] Speaking on the television, Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev said that the Kyrgyz parliament ought to be revitalized. The country needs a new professional parliament, he added. Akayev said the new parliament is needed in accordance with the new Kyrgyz Constitution adopted in 1993.

Akayev said he considers the parliamentary crisis as a "natural process in the life of a democratic state." He said he believes that it is possible to overcome this crisis. Akayev said he intends to remain faithful to the Constitution in order to strengthen democracy and continue the economic reforms.

Akayev said that the necessity for creating the new parliament is dictated by time as implementation of the economic reforms requires laws of a new generation. He added that the old parliament had done much for implementing the first stage of the democratic reforms. However, recently, the parliament has been hindering the reforms, Akayev said.

Akayev said he believes that the Kyrgyz society will be divided into groups of supporters of the reforms and their opponents before the early parliamentary elections.

Akayev also said he believes that the hopes of Communists to win the elections are founded as other parties do not have a social basis.

Akayev said he regrets that Kyrgyzstan does not have such influential democratic organizations as Russia's Democratic Choice, YaBLoko and others.

Akayev said that the majority of the deputies had refused to take part in the parliament's session because its agenda included the report of the commission on participation of parliamentarians and members of the government in privatization of state property. He said that many officials had privatized a large share of state property, most of them deputies enjoying the parliamentary immunity.

Akayev concluded that there are many people in the Kyrgyz power structures who "hinder and discredit the reforms."

Parties Walk Out of Democratic Forces Congress

LD1209200894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1605 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Five pro-democracy parties have walked out of Kyrgyzstan's Congress of Democratic Forces including the Fatherland and Republican People's Parties, the Agrarians, the Unity Party and the Democratic Movement, it was announced at a Congress forum in Bishkek on Monday.

Their move follows disagreement with attacks launched on the Kyrgyz president and government by the Free Kyrgyzstan and Communist Parties which have now declared their formation of a formal opposition to the Kyrgyz authorities.

For their part, members of the five parties forged a centrist alliance which threw weight behind President Akayev and his recent decrees on new general elections.

The incumbent parliament elected five years ago is to hold a special session on Tuesday to announce its own dissolution.

The parliament signed its own death warrant early this month following its refusal to hold a session on September 27. The self-dissolution led to the resignation of the government on September 5 because of the Kyrgyz law saying the cabinet ceases to exist with the dissolution of parliament approving it.

President Akayev has instructed Prime Minister Abbas Dzhumagulov and his cabinet to stay out until a new cabinet is formed.

UNICEF Sends Vaccines to Bishkek

LD1209103194 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 2300 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Summary] Medical establishments in the Kyrgyz capital have received immunization vaccines worth almost $1 million from UNICEF, the UN children's fund. Earlier, the fund sent disposable syringes, antibiotics, and other medicines which are in short supply in Kyrgyzstan.

Tajikistan

Government Troops Recapture Strategic Area

LD1209182894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1524 GMT 12 Sep 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] The government troops have restored control over the Tavil-Dara District about 300 km east of Dushanbe and the town of the same name, a senior officer in the Tajik Defense Ministry told Interfax. The town had for some time been held by opponents of the Emomali Rakhmonov regime.

Observers believe that the opposition offensive was designed to enable the government-in-exile to have a foothold in the Darvaza or Tavil-Dara District.

The source in the Defense Ministry said that following their defeat the opposition fighters partly dispersed in the mountains in the vicinity of the battleground and partly retreated towards the border. He added that the opposition was unable to take Tavil-Dara again.

He said that the government troops had been reinforced and the Russian 201st Division sent in ammunition and fuel. The government troops consolidated their positions and started positional defense. The highway from Dushanbe into the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region is also controlled by government troops.

The source said that as many as 500 to 600 opposition fighters had infiltrated the Tajik-Afghan borders on September 8-9.

Well-trained Tajik, Afghan, Pakistani and Arab mercenaries fight on the opposition side. The source said that the government troops overheard the enemy fighters talking in Arabic on the radio in a Tavil-Dara suburb.

He said that the government troops lost eight men dead and 14 wounded in the fighting.

The Russian 201st Motorized Division, stationed in Tajikistan, did not take part in the fighting.

The Russian-led CIS peacekeeping force declared that it would not interfere in the Tajik internal fighting. IF Note: Islamic Revival Movement Deputy Chairman Akbar Turajonzoda, a most influential opposition leader, told Interfax on the eve of the rebel advance on Tavil-Dara that the opposition would continue fighting on the Tajik-Afghan border and inside the country until the Dushanbe government signed a ceasefire agreement. He also dismissed Rakhmonov's proposal that the opposition put up its presidential candidate and Rakhmonov's promise of safe conduct for the opposition leaders if they returned to Tajikistan.

Defense Ministry Source on Troop Actions

LD1209115694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1033 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Government troops in Tajikistan on Sunday restored control over the Tavil-Dara [Tovel-Dora] District of the republic and its administrative center (approximately 300 km to the east of Dushanbe), Interfax was told by a high-ranking officer in the Tajik Defense Ministry. Over the past few days government forces clashed with opposition units and Tavil-Dara was taken by rebel forces for a time.

The source said that having sustained defeat, armed units of the opposition, whose numbers, according to experts, are around 1200- 1500 people, both broke into smaller units and fled into the mountains nearby the sites of clashes and retreated to the border. The spokesman ruled out the possibility of the opposition seizing Tavil-Dara once again.

The source said government troops have been reinforced. They received ammunition and fuel from the 201st Russian Infantry Division deployed in Tajikistan. Government forces on Sunday, later in the day, started building up defenses. They unblocked the road from Dushanbe to the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region and once again put it under government troop control.

The source said that a deterioration of the situation in the region had been precipitated by 500-600 well-trained militants infiltrating the republic in small groups through the Tajik-Afghan border from September 8-9.

Well-trained mercenaries— Tajiks, Afghans, Pakistanis and those from Arab countries fought on the side of the opposition. The source said that militants spoke over walkie-talkies in Arabic.

The source said that government troops suffered eight killed and 14 wounded.

Delegation Leaves for Talks in Tehran

LD1209150994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1050 GMT 12 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 12 Sep—A Tajikistan government delegation headed by Deputy Speaker Abdumajid Dostiyev flew out to Iran today. Consultations are being held in Tehran prior to the forthcoming third round of inter-Tajik talks. The consultations are taking place with the direct participation of Piriz Ballon, the UN secretary general's special envoy.

As reported by Zafar Saidov, the head of the information department of the Tajik Foreign Ministry, in an interview with ITAR- TASS, the forthcoming talks and the consultations preceding the talks in Tehran will seek a political settlement of the Tajik conflict in which hundreds of thousands of Tajiks have fallen victim. According to the representative of the republic's foreign policy department, the situation in the country is becoming so serious that any postponement of the search for and implementation of a peaceful resolution of the crisis that has dragged on for so long might have unpredictable consequences.

Armenia

Ter-Petrosyan, Aliyev To Speed Up Peace Talks

LD1209200494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1605 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Geydar Aliyev at the end of last week's talks in Moscow pledged their commitment to the regional truce, well-informed sources in Yerevan told Interfax. The two leaders said they would instruct their delegations to speed up the current talks in Moscow aimed at working out a comprehensive peace agreement on Nagorno-Karabakh.

However, the two sides failed to narrow the gap on Shusha and Lachin, one source in Yerevan said. The Azeris continue to insist on Armenian pullout from those two cities which link the disputed territory with Armenia.

For its part, the Armenian president's press service gave no details of the Saturday talks mediated by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev apart from saying that no formal document was signed in Moscow.

Leadership Terms Azerbaijani Talks Positive

NC1209124794 Yerevan SNARK in English 1526 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Yerevan, September 10 (SNARK)—The acting press secretary of the President of Armenia Levon Zurabyan estimated Armenian-Azerbaijani negotiations in Moscow positively today. Participants of multilateral consultations were presidents Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Geydar Aliyev, the Foreign Affairs Minister of Russia Andrey Kozyrev and chairman of Nagorno-Karabakh State Committee of Defence Robert Kocharyan. In his talks with SNARK reporter, Zurabyan mentioned that the parties had confirmed their readiness to keep armistice in Karabakh conflict zone, and also active the preparation of Big political agreement in order to sign it as soon as possible. "We think that just the fact of ingenuous contacts and consultations with participation of Armenian, Azerbaijani and Karabakh leaders is very important and positive", - said Levon Zurabyan.

The acting press secretary said that he knew nothing about the question if Geydar Aliyev had met with Robert Kocharyan in Moscow.

Defense Minister: Azerbaijan Strengthening Army

NC1209210494 Yerevan SNARK in English 1125 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Yerevan, September 12 (SNARK)—Taking advantage of the 4 month's armistice in the region of Karabakh conflict, Azerbaijan is strengthening its army. It was announced by the Armenian Minister for Defense Serzhik Sarkisyan during his exclusive interview to SNARK. According to him he has a trustworthy information that Azerbaijan has acquired and is going on to acquire a great deal of ammunition and armament, in particular, tanks, militant engine of infantry, piece of ordnance.

A head of the Armenian Department of Defense also mentioned that more often new detachments of Azerbaijani Army appear at the front line.

Meanwhile the Minister stated this fact cannot predetermine the issue of a battle as far as "the same is going on, and may be even more successfully, both in Defense Army of Nagorno-Karabakh and in the army of Armenia." "It means that even if military operations renew, though it is not desirable, the very army which is prepared better both in sense of a war and in sense of spirit, will succeed," concluded Serzhik Sarkisyan.

Interview With RMK Supreme Council Chairman

NC1209131094 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 2226 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Stepanakert ("LRAGIR" daily), 09/07/94—An interview with the RMK [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh] Supreme Council Chairman Karen Baburyan.

- Third anniversary since declaration of the RMK independence was celebrated on September 2. Accepting laws is very difficult even in peace-time. To what extent has the RMK legislation been formed?

- Unfortunately, we are unable to call sessions in time, as the law about the RMK Supreme Council stipulates. When we call a session, we are not always able to insure quorum, as the majority of deputies are in this or that way involved in defense of the RMK. Many deputies are fighting at the fronts, from a commander to an ordinary soldier. A number of deputies have been killed. It is very difficult to call a Supreme Council regularly in such conditions, though the Supreme Council Board is accepting several laws, policies, formulations and orders, which are mainly dictated by the situation. There are many problems concerning war conditions, military construction, operation of legislative bodies etc.

- How many laws has the RMK Supreme Council accepted in general?

- The RMK Declaration of Independence and the Law about the RMK Independence have been accepted. Laws, regulating three structures of power, or laws about the Supreme Council, Supreme Court and the government also exist. We have formulations coordinating problems of prosecutors office and military prosecutor. About 200 orders gained the power of laws after being affirmed by the Parliament.

- Any warring country faces anarchy and oppression. What's the situation in Karabakh?

- I believe, a warring country requires some elements of oppression, for this purpose was the State Department of

Defense created, to which all power structures are subject. The fact that we are calling a session in war conditions, and accept parliamentary guests, speaks for itself. We are doing our best for the laws to be effective. Meanwhile, I believe, some oppression is necessary during wartime, we can't do without this.

- Several governments have changed in Azerbaijan during last few years, but policy towards Karabakh was basically the same. Is this true, or only seems to be?

- Azerbaijan is an interesting country, since several legal Presidents live and act there. Azeri leaders are changing like a deck of cards. Every time one of them is playing the role of an "ace", depending on who is shuffling the deck. Nevertheless, the rules of the game are, unfortunately, not changing. The Presidents are changing, but everyone starts a new struggle for his seat.

- Every new President gives greater promises and leads to greater losses. Do you mean this?

- That President will stay longer at power, who will understand that it is impossible to resolve the Karabakh problem by force. Thus I would like to appeal to the current and future Presidents of Azerbaijan: Presidents come and go, but interests of people remain the same. Neither of Azeri Presidents has been defending interests of his people so far. Of course, if mujaheddins did not exist, if not the Turkish weaponry and consultants and mercenaries from various countries, particularly CIS, they wouldn't have carried active military operations during two months in winter. As far as I remember, every President made a promise. One even promised to bathe in Sevan, the other one - to drink tea in Stepanakert. We have set the tea long ago, but those willing to drink it have not arrived.

- There are too many people interested in continuing the conflict. Do you not fear that an agreement will not be reached , and the fire will last for long time?

- Do you fear yourself?

- I do fear.

- Then, what do we have to do? Fight and defend our land, our rights. Everything will end well.

- In order to insure security of Karabakh people RMK armed forces are controlling borderline districts of the RMK and formed the so-called buffer zone. Is it possible that what was gained with blood be lost by a mere signature on a piece of paper?

- The question is not quite correct. The thing is, we didn't create any buffer zone, we didn't exceed the borders of Karabakh. In the historical view, Karabakh possessed even broader territories then we currently control. But we are realistic. These territories have only military-strategic value, we merely neutralized the military firepoints over them.

- What's the #1 problem of the RMK Supreme Council?

- Independence of Karabakh.

- Long-lasting shellings, military operations resulted in destruction of virtually all RMK districts. How are reconstruction operations proceeding and what are the principles for choosing priorities?

- We have a program, based on which we have started from villages which suffered most: Vaghouhas, Chapar, Jardakhach and Getavan in the Martakertskiy district. We need to build at least one room for every family, and only then we'll start reconstruction of villages. If we are not able to provide the minimum conditions, there will be few people left in Karabakh.

- How much time would be needed for complete reconstruction of Karabakh?

- In a year after peace, Karabakh will not only support itself, but even help others.

Economy Department Chairman Notes Production Increase

NC1209132294 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 2226 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Stepanakert ("HAYASTANI HANRAPETUTYUN" daily), 09/10/94—Chairman of the Economy Department said that 30 industrial enterprises are operating in Artsakh today.

He also said that volume of industrial production increased by 20 percent in six months of this year, compared with the same period of last year. Despite blockade by Azerbaijan, RMK [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh] businesses managed to import several means from several CIS countries, particularly Russia.

Nevertheless, import is exceeding export several times. According to Gevondyan, relative stability in the economy of the republic is first of all related with relative economic situation in the country and the military situation.

Chairman of the Economy Department of the RMK government is sure that if the conflict is resolved, the industry and former rhythm of operations will recover.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev: Talks With Ter-Petrosyan 'Effective'

LD1209171194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1524 GMT 12 Sep 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] President Geydar Aliyev speaking in Baku has described as effective his recent talks in Moscow with Armenian leader Levon Ter-Petrosyan. He spoke of the two countries' resolve to consolidate the truce and achieve a comprehensive settlement to the regional conflict.

Aliyev said that apart from stiffening the cease-fire, the problem of Armenian pullout from Lachin and Shusha was also on agenda. He spoke of not yielding an inch on Baku's firm position saying that any talks on the future of Nagorno-Karabakh must follow Armenian pullout from occupied lands and the repatriation of Azeri refugees.

The delegations of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Nagorono-Karabakh are continuing to work over a regional peace agreement in the wake of Saturday's talks in Moscow between the Azeri and Armenian leaders.

Russian mediator in the talks Vladimir Kazimirov in an interview with Interfax described the negotiating process as normal, but he did not elaborate.

Meanwhile, opposition leaders on both sides are being critical of the current peace talks between Baku and Yerevan.

IF Note: Leaders of the opposition People's Front of Azerbaijan have announced plans to call a demonstration in Baku in protcst at the government's domestic and foreign policy and its intention to sign a capitulatory pact with Armenia. For its part, the opposition Armenian Revolutionary Federation Dashnaktsutyun in Yerevan said that no agreement could be viable unless it provides for the independence of the self-styled Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh. Its statement says all previous peacemaking effort have failed because of Baku's demands for territorial concessions without recognition of the enclave's status and provision of firm security guarantees.

Karabakh Settlement Prospects Viewed

MM1209121394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Boris Vinogradov: "Fire in Karabakh Not Yet Extinguished but Diplomats Are Already Sharing Peacemakers' Laurels"]

[Text] The meeting of the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia, who have arrived in Moscow for the CIS summit, began with a smile. That is already promising. What Geydar Aliyev and Levon Ter-Petrosyan talked about one on one can only be guessed at. They did not sign any official papers about the Karabakh problem and did not make any statements. It was an ordinary exchange of opinions and at the same time a demonstration to their CIS counterparts of their readiness to conduct a civilized dialogue. The two leaders discussed the problems which have accumulated over six years and are complicating relations between the two countries. Diplomats are cudgelling their brains over the same problems.

The atmosphere reigning at the Moscow talks on Nagorno-Karabakh of itself well reflects their routine nature. Every day tedious work is under way on Zubovskaya Square on the draft agreement on halting the armed conflict. The sessions are reminiscent of literacy classes. The Russian president's personal representative, Vladimir Kazimirov, acts in the role of teacher, occasionally urging the audience to reply "yes" or "no" more loudly. Reading with understanding and slowly and deliberately is a difficult skill to acquire and it is even harder to extract a positive response.

Apart from the three main participants—Baku, Yerevan, and Stepanakert—a representative from the Minsk group of the CSCE is also at the conference table. As a rule he does not vote, merely nodding his head occasionally. The representative of another organization—the CIS—figures in the protocol as a potential mediator.

In a week of work they have managed to make headway on many points of the Grand Agreement, as the Russian plan prepared back in May and approved by the Minsk group is now usually called. But headway can be seen only on those sectors which do not concern the main elements of the Karabakh problem: the political status of Stepanakert, the future of Shush—the Azerbaijan enclave inside the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast—and the Leninskiy corridor linking Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia. Here the biggest obstacles await the interlocutors. None of them can say when all signatures will have been put to the documents and when the peacemaking operation will begin.

Actually, the Russian plan is in fact already in operation. For the fourth month there has been no shooting in the conflict zone and the military have surrendered the initiative to the diplomats. From the battlefield the struggle has moved to the offices or, as the experts say, "under the carpet." Hidden from outside eyes, it has nonetheless revealed curious tendencies.

What above all has drawn the attention is a certain activation of the CSCE. The head of the Minsk group, the Swede Jan Eliasson who took up the post nine months ago, has demanded that the name of the general document be altered, as a result of which the term "Russian plan" has disappeared from official speeches. It has been retained only in the daily usage of newspapermen and a few diplomats who know for sure the story of the issue. Instead another title has appeared: "Consolidated plan of the CSCE, CIS, and Russian Federation."

Russia, without vanity, has accepted this option as a conditional one but to be fair it must be noted that the texts under discussion repeat almost word for word what was drafted on Smolenskaya Square and not in Vienna or Minsk. Now that matters have advanced from a standstill and the mechanism of settlement has begun to turn, Russian diplomats are observing with alarm how the peacemaking blanket is being dragged out of their hands. The renaming is in general a formal act something more stands behind it. What exactly?

For the CSCE, in many ways as yet an unformed and amorphous structure, Nagorno-Karabakh has become the first international conflict which it has undertaken to settle. The United Nations was relieved to free itself from the Karabakh problem, transferring it to the shoulders of the CSCE. At the recent conference in New York, to which Butrus Butrus-Ghali invited the leaders of all regional organizations, including the CIS, he made it clear that the United Nations cannot on its own resolve all disputes and extinguish all trouble spots and urged them to display more independence in the quest for peace.

Over the past year Russia as mediator in the Karabakh conflict has evidently broken through into the lead, leaving the CSCE mission with the role of a passive observer. Experts from the Minsk group making shuttle trips to Baku and Yerevan have been unable to put their project on the table, making do with general declarations and statements. Perhaps their inadequate degree of information, the lack of contacts and knowledge of the realities of the Caucasus have had an effect but the result of their activity is recognized by everyone as very modest, which cannot be said of Russia's vigorous efforts.

In principle, diplomats believe, Russia could begin the operation even without a mandate from the CSCE or United Nations. International norms permit it, all that is needed is the agreement of the conflicting sides. The sides themselves seem to agree but would prefer a UN roof or the CSCE in order to avoid reproaches of "betrayal of national interests" and of readiness to make concessions to "imperial ambitions."

Baku is being most cautious of all. One can understand it. The military defeat neurosis, the loss of age-old lands, and its offended dignity do not allow it to make concessions. The recognition of Nagorno-Karabakh as an equal side in the talks has cost Geydar Aliyev dear and he must now pay more attention to the opposition which acts from extreme positions and regards Russia as virtually the main culprit in all Azerbaijan's misfortunes.

Hopes for help from the West are encouraged by promises to "put pressure on" and provide credits. There is the opinion that the Azerbaijan side is refraining from signing any documents on Karabakh until the so-called "contract of the century" is concluded with U.S. companies for the extraction of Caspian oil. Apart from the United States, Turkey, as a member of the Minsk group, has obvious interests in the conflict zone. In Ankara's actions one can also discern the wish to constrict Russia in the Caucasus and to restrict its maneuvers within the CSCE framework.

On the other hand, Russia would probably like to put its troops back in Azerbaijan and to guard its southern border, which has become a passageway, and thus complete the creation of the CIS countries' security zone on the Caucasus borders. There are accords on Russian bases in Georgia and Armenia. Only Baku is hesitating.

But this arrangement is hardly part of the schemes of NATO or the other CSCE members. Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, who visited Baku, Yerevan, and Moscow recently, stated that the Russian troops, if they enter the Karabakh conflict zone, will do so only under international control.

She did not specify what kind of control this will be, or by whom. It must be supposed that the Minsk group will be the main inspector. In that case Russia, which has assumed the main military and financial burden of the settlement, will have to be directly subordinate to the CSCE and guided by its directives. Will Moscow come to terms with such an unenviable share in participation, which obviously does not accord with its substantial contribution?

It is probably not a question of who will get the most honors and laurels. Ultimately the main aim is a common one: ending the war and restoring peace. But it would be naive to think that in moving toward this goal the sides, including the mediators, will forget their own strategic interests.

Aliyev, Soysal News Conference Speeches Reported

NC1209165994 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1630 GMT 11 Sep 94

["Text" of speeches by President Geydar Aliyev and Turkish Foreign Minister Mumtaz Soysal during their joint press briefing in Baku on 10 September—recorded]

[Text] [Begin Aliyev recording] Esteemed media employees and journalists, Foreign Minister Mumtaz Soysal arrived in Azerbaijan at the invitation of Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov today. I also invited him to visit our republic. We have held talks with him on the further improvement of relations between Azerbaijan and Turkey. Our independent republic and Turkey maintain friendly and fraternal relations. We maintain sincere relations and our countries are very close to each other. Considering the serious situation in Azerbaijan, Turkey has always supported our republic in the international domain. Our history and national, cultural, and religious traditions have enabled our peoples to maintain friendly and fraternal relations for many centuries. Considering this and the current realities in the world, Azerbaijan and Turkey now maintain a new approach in their relations. Undoubtedly, our talks were related to all that.

Furthermore, we have extensively discussed the improvement of economic, cultural, scientific, and humanitarian relations between Azerbaijan and Turkey. Matters related to Armenia's military aggression against Azerbaijan; the occupation of a part of Azerbaijan's territory as a result of Armenia's aggression, which has forced more than 1 million people to become refugees and has caused social and economic problems in our republic; and the effort made to resolve the Daghlyk Karabakh dispute had priority in our talks.

It is common knowledge that an exchange of fire has not taken place for four months now. We assess the cease-fire as an important development because this is the first time a lengthy cease-fire has been put into effect in the course of the six-year war between Azerbaijan and Armenia. We agreed during the talks that were held in Moscow that the cease-fire should be maintained. That will provide for the establishment of peace, liberation of Azerbaijan's occupied territories, restoration of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, and maintenance of the nonviolability of Azerbaijan's borders. All that was the center of our talks.

Azerbaijan and Turkey share the same view on all those matters. A mutual agreement exists between the two sides. I am convinced that our talks will strengthen the friendly and fraternal relations between Azerbaijan and Turkey and between the peoples of the two countries. That is all I have to say. I now wish to ask Mr. Mumtaz Soysal to address you. [end recording]

[Begin Soysal recording] First, I wish to thank President Geydar Aliyev and Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov for their warm hospitality. I wish to recall that we had to travel a long distance to visit Azerbaijan in the past. We had to change aircraft in the northern countries. However, now we are able to take a direct flight and visit Azerbaijan within a few hours. Our peoples not only converse in similar languages but they also [words indistinct] and understand each other's problems. We openly and sincerely explained our problems to each other and outlined our views on various matters. We have established that we fully agree on the matters we have discussed.

The main problem we discussed was the occupation of Azerbaijan's territory, which has forced many people to become refugees. We agreed that the cease-fire agreement, which has held for four months, has created a state of relief for the people of this country. However, that situation must be converted into a state of lasting peace. Meanwhile, Azerbaijan's territory must be completely liberated and the Republic's refugees must return to their homes. The peace that will be established must be supported and guaranteed by the entire world. Turkey's approach on that matter is quite clear. The peace that will be established must be within a multilateral framework, particularly the CSCE framework. It must guarantee Azerbaijan's territorial integrity and borders and provide for the return of Azerbaijan's refugees to their homes.

We have decided what should be done in the next few weeks, particularly in the talks that will be held during the UN General Assembly meetings. In view of that, I am returning to Ankara satisfied with the talks I have held in Baku. I am very happy to have visited Azerbaijan because I have found an opportunity to establish how Azerbaijan's officials can cooperate with the Turkish Government. In view of that, I wish to thank Azerbaijan's officials once again. [end recording]

Georgia

Two Russian Officers Killed in Abkhazia

LD1309091994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0910 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow September 13 TASS—Two Russian officers from the peace-keeping force were ambushed and killed in Abkhazia late on Monday, TASS learned from the Russian Defense Ministry on Tuesday.

Senior Lieutenants Valeriy Kokalich and Sergey Bulatov were returning from an inspection of a patrol when unknown gunmen opened fire on them near the settlement of Nabakevi in Gali district.

The command of the peace-keeping forces is searching for the gunmen and control posts have been reinforced, according to the ministry.

Georgians Blamed for Deaths

LD1309102994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0937 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Excerpt] Sochi, 13 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—[Passage omitted on material contained in referent item] The Abkhaz Information and press Ministry claims that the vehicle carrying the Russian officers [who were killed while] on patrol in the area where the CIS peacekeeping forces are deployed was fired on in an ambush by Georgian saboteurs. The ministry told ITAR-TASS that a "blue helmet" reserve group and staff of the Abkhaz law-enforcement bodies combed the area and established that the saboteurs escaped toward the Inguri river. The Abkhaz side is convinced that the terrorist act was perpetrated by one of the groups of saboteurs penetrating into Abkhaz territory from the other bank of the Inguri.

Spokesmen for the Abkhaz press ministry claim that a similar scenario was used in an attack on a vehicle carrying representatives of local government bodies in the village of Sida on 8 August in which four people were killed, and in an attack on a patrol vehicle in the village of Saberio on 10 September in which one policeman was wounded.

The Abkhaz side believes the terrorist acts in the area where the peacekeeping forces are deployed are aimed at "destabilizing the situation and provoking a conflict."

Procedure for Repatriating Refugees Worked Out

LD1309100294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0927 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lilia Kuznetsova]

[Text] Moscow September 13 TASS—The procedure for the voluntary repatriation of refugees to Abkhazia has been worked out by the quadripartite commission, which includes representatives from Abkhazia, Georgia, Russia, and the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, ITAR-TASS was told by officials of the press service of the Russian Migration Service.

The commission has determined the location of registration points for refugees, has indicated the places on the territory of Abkhazia, where they are to be received. The safety of refugees will be guaranteed only there. Moreover, a registration questionnaire has been agreed. The Abkhazian side will adopt decisions on its basis whether to permit or prohibit the repatriation of this or that refugee.

On agreement between the sides, the refugees will be transported to Abkhazia from gathering points to the transit centres by the Georgian side, and further—to the place of residence—by the Abkhazian authorities. Both sides plan to invite peacekeeping troops to guard the refugee columns.

Shevardnadze on Abkhaz, CIS, Parliament Issues

LD1209194394 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0606 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Interview with Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze by correspondent Nato Oniani in Tbilisi—live]

[Excerpts] [Oniani] Good morning, we present to you a radio interview with Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian parliament and head of state.

Mr. Shevardnadze, it has happened since our very first radio interview that you have almost always started your discussion of the previous week's events with the Abkhaz issue. Quadripartite talks on the return of refugees were held last week. Georgia, the Abkhaz side, the Russian peacekeeping forces, and the United Nations attended the talks. Anti-Georgian rallies were continuing in several regions of Abkhazia. The hunger strike by refugees in Rukhi is still under way. Meanwhile, according to a recent announcement, the Russian side has named the end of October as an expected date for the return of refugees.

The 49th session of the UN General Assembly, to which you have been invited, will open in about two weeks. We remember your address at the 47th session of the UN General Assembly two years ago, during which you discussed the Abkhaz issue and for the first time clearly outlined the threat of aggressive separatism. What is the Georgian head of state going to tell the United Nations this time?

[Shevardnadze] Thank you, and good morning. Your remark that our dialogues start with Abkhaz issues as a rule is correct. I dream of a time—and I am sure it will come—when the problem is solved, and then I will not be starting with that. It may not happen today or tomorrow, but I believe that a fair solution to this issue that accounts for the interests of the Georgian, Abkhaz, and other peoples will be found.

[Oniani] Mr. Shevardnadze, excuse me for interrupting you. I was told by an employee from your press service recently: Can you imagine the happiness of an employee who will have to write in his or her report that today the Georgian head of state arrived in Sukhumi? Will this day come soon?

[Shevardnadze] I think it will. It is difficult to predict the time, but I think this will happen.

Now, back to your question. Intensive talks on Abkhaz issues are under way in Moscow. Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia, Defense Minister Vardiko Nadibaidze, and other representatives of our authorities are taking part in these talks. Talks and meetings are continuing even today. I would refrain from commenting on their results because not every detail is known yet. As I said, the meetings have not yet finished.

Considering that the UN General Assembly is to meet at the end of this month, I think that the future of the Abkhaz peace mission should be determined as early as September. The world community is waiting for what the Russian delegation has to say and probably also for what the Georgian delegation has to say about it. I think that members of the Security Council, which has passed nine resolutions on this issue, will show a certain interest in this problem. They would be interested to know how far we have gone so far and what the peace mission undertaken by Russia and the CIS—of course, at our request and with our consent—has achieved. I think that September will give us more hope than August. Much had to be done in August. A lot was done, I must say. It was not easy to transfer troops from the Urals and other central regions. This process has almost been completed now. However, there is much more to be done. I think that a lot will be decided in September.

[Oniani] Moreover, this is being done for the first time. This is the first operation of its kind. Of course, there are always bound to be difficulties.

[Shevardnadze] Of course, it is an experiment, a very important experiment. As you know, Ms. Madeleine Albright visited Georgia. She also stressed that this experiment was the focus of the world public's attention. This is well understood by the Russian leadership and by ourselves. Everybody understands well the responsibility for carrying out this mission, which has been assumed by Russia, first of all.

As for my participation, I have been invited. Although, it is rather difficult to add much to what I said then.

September should provide answers to questions about whether or not this experiment was justified and whether or not we and the Security Council have chosen the right policy of conflict settlement in Abkhazia.

I cannot give you the date when my address will take place, but meetings that the Georgian delegation will have at the General Assembly should be interesting.

[Oniani] A meeting of the parliamentary collegium will be held today, and tomorrow parliament will resume work after the recess. It has emerged that part of the opposition is seriously planning to destabilize the situation in the capital and elsewhere. It must be said that there have been similar rumors in the past. [National Independence Party Chairman Irakli] Tsereteli and [Social Democratic Party Chairman Guram] Muchaidze are demanding that you resign. It should also be noted that there is talk that the issue of sacking Interior Minister Shota Kviraia is to be introduced at a parliament session. How do you think this confrontation will end? On the one hand, certain forces have stepped up their activity; on the other hand, there are calls for sacking the interior minister following major operations carried out by the police.

[Shevardnadze] I do not think that any attempt to strain the situation, any attempt to raise tension within society, can lead to a good result. First, no one should forget that apart from aggressively-minded politicians, there is also a majority in parliament—I also mean the opposition—there are many members of the opposition who feel responsibility for their country. There are sound forces among politicians and all levels of society who are creating something for the state. Finally, there are people who can no longer be duped by dizzying demagoguery, populist phraseology, and demagogic calls. [passage omitted]

No one should think that the interests of the public and the state would be sacrificed for the ambitions of individual political forces. We have received bitter lessons and learned quite a lot.

As for the issue concerning the minister of internal affairs, we should once again turn to the opinion of parliament and the people. I know approximately what their opinion is: The struggle to improve the crime situation and to implement the head of state's decrees related to these issues, which started under the leadership of Shota Kviraia, has received widespread support from the authorities and the population. Those who do not wish to be politically bankrupt should, to put it mildly, take into consideration the opinion and attitudes of the population. They should also consider the attitude tens of thousands of the Interior Ministry's hard-working employees toward their leader. Regardless of one's personal attitude and resentment, one should be able to understand the general situation before demanding somebody's resignation.

As for the demands by Messrs. Tsereteli, Muchaidze, and the ex-president's [Gamsakhurdia's] lackeys for Shevardnadze's resignation, I am now thinking about and working on more serious issues than the forces that are behind such demands, be it Mr. Irakli Tsereteli, Mr. Guram Muchaidze, the most fanatical supporters of the ex-president, or others.

[Oniani] Addressing a meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers last week, you focused on the need to speed up privatization and other important problems that are to be solved for the country's transition to the market economy.

The IMF is providing recommendations and is pledging assistance. You have received letters from [Spanish Prime Minister Felipe] Gonzalez and [Greek Prime Minister Andreas] Papandreou, in which they promise additional aid. Turkey has sent humanitarian aid worth $130,000. I am only talking about last week's events.

Our representative to Turkmenistan has been conferred the status of plenipotentiary representative, which should probably mean that serious steps are about to be taken to repay our debt to Turkmenistan. Last week you also met representatives of a British firm to discuss the future of Georgian oil. Against this background, a Georgian delegation was taking part in a meeting of the consultative and coordinating committee in Moscow to discuss developing economic union, and [words indistinct] is now planning to sign a document on CIS economic union. The document was rejected by Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan, while Ukraine would only agree to an associate membership. What will this bring our country? And, has the forthcoming winter contributed to this fact?

I remembered all this because there have been some positive changes in the country, and there is an opinion that this will be an enslaving document for us.

[Shevardnadze] In fact, you have already listed problems that my colleagues and I are working on. And, because of my preoccupation with these problems, I am ignoring the hysterical calls for Shevardnadze's resignation that are being shouted into the megaphone by certain individuals [word indistinct] in the streets. I would add to your list the most difficult and demanding stage of economic reforms that we have now entered. You have already mentioned IMF recommendations. I would add to that the anti-crisis program that I have approved, endorsed, and that was then distributed among members of parliament....

[Oniani, interrupting] And that was accepted by the IMF as a basic document.

[Shevardnadze] That is right. We—at least those of us who are aware of the situation—also believe that this is a good document and a good program. Of course, there were problems that we would be unable to address so soon.

I am sure that parliament will concentrate on this problem tomorrow, this most difficult and complex new stage in implementing economic reforms. People who have been monitoring developments in Georgia in recent months—especially in the last two months—would agree with me that we have really entered the depths of economic reform and transformation. These are not just words and slogans saying that we are reformers and that we will set up a union of reformers; however, these are actions and this is work on reforms day and night, which involves a lot of mental energy and certain risk as well. There is a serious risk element in what is going to happen these days.

I would also like to say that all measures that we are now implementing are in line with recommendations made by the IMF and World Bank representatives; in fact, they are in line with the experience of most countries that have been pursuing market policies.

You have mentioned Turkmenistan, and I would like once again to express my deep gratitude to that country's leadership. They are doing everything in order to assist us and not to put pressure on us and are supplying us with natural gas. Up until now we had no resources to repay the debt, but now active work has started to find additional resources to repay at least part of the debt and convince them that we are (?partners and that we are concerned about the current situation). [passage omitted]

[Deputy Prime Minister Zurab] Kervalishvili has recently completed a successful visit to Iran, where he met President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. I must say that the president did everything to allow us to prepare better for the winter. Iran is to supply us with between 600 million and 650 million cubic meters of gas. This is not a free gift, and the gas should be paid for over the next three years. However, this is still an advantage because living and working conditions in the country will be different in two or three years, and the shape of the economy will be different as well. So, there is hope that we will get through this winter with few losses. Our neighbor Turkey is also helping us a lot.

Senior representatives of Russian economic structures are to visit Georgia later this week. I was told yesterday that the delegation would include Mr. Oleg Davidov, the Russian minister for foreign economic relations, and representatives of various ministries. As I was told yesterday, it will be a high-ranking delegation. So, I think that many problems relating to the winter will be solved.

Russia and its relevant agencies have already done a lot to restore the Kavkasioni high-voltage line. On the Russian side, almost all work has been completed. It was a rather expensive operation. The main thing for us now is to be connected to the line, and if the conditions are right, we should be able to receive electricity from the north, from Russia. There are such assurances. This will be among the issues we will discuss during the delegation's visit. [passage omitted]

As for the economic union agreement, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan have not refused to sign it. The signing was postponed until a meeting of the [CIS] heads of state in October. For us, the question of joining it and signing a final economic agreement.... [pauses] Our entry into the economic union will take effect following the summit. For some reason, I am sure that Azerbaijan will probably sign it. Judging by its current economic situation, this should be deemed appropriate. However, Azerbaijan's leadership knows better what to do. Regarding Turkmenistan, it is in such a position and has such wealth that it can really choose between signing the agreement or not signing it. Meanwhile, our options are more limited. However, there is still a month or even more to go, and I will be able to look more thoroughly into this problem and make a decision that will be appropriate and justifiable both now and in the future. [passage omitted]

Shevardnadze: Parliament Must Not Be Disbanded

LD1209211994 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1950 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Parliament must not be disbanded, it must serve the country to the end, Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian Parliament and head of state announced at today's session of a parliamentary majority held before it resumes its fall session tomorrow.

Shevardnadze said that economic reforms had in effect got under way. Decrees on privatization had been issued and the bank system was being reorganized with the consideration of market economy requirements and IMF recommendations. Decrees on flotation of customs branches are being prepared and will soon be issued. The head of state talked about the expected price rise on bread and said that the Cabinet of Ministers would perfect this issue by 15 September.

SAKINFORM news agency has learned that Shevardnadze will open the parliament session on 13 September. He will sum up the work that has been carried out over the last two months, during the summer break, and will brief parliament on the political and economic situation in Georgia. Parliament will also hear a Cabinet of Ministers report on price liberalization.

Defense Minister on Military Cooperation With Russia

LD1009161494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1513 GMT 10 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow September 10 TASS—Defense Minister of Georgia Vardiko Nadibaidze positively assesses the perspectives for military-technical cooperation of Russia and Georgia. In an interview with ITAR-TASS on Saturday he said at present officers are being trained for the Georgian Army at Russia's military educational establishments, including two Georgian officers are trained at the general staff academy, five officers are getting military education at the Frunze academy and some 30 men - at military schools.

The Georgian defence minister noted the command of the group of the Russian troops in Transcaucasia renders significant assistance in the formation of the Georgian Army. Joint Russian-Georgian exercises are conducted regularly, national proving grounds are under contruction.

The minister expressed confidence that "Russian servicemen will serve in the Georgian Armed Forces and corresponding agreements are elaborated." "However, a number of political decisions, including at the state level should be made for ensuring a wide-scale military-technical cooperation of Russia and Georgia," Vardiko Nadibaidze said in conclusion.

'Traditional Output' to Russia Drops 80 Percent

MM1209121394 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 10 Sep 94 p 1

[ITAR-TASS report under the "CIS: Day by Day" rubric: "Diary of Disintegration"]

[Text] Tbilisi—"Georgia has lost up to 80 percent of sales of its traditional output on Russia's market, output which was previously in demand there. This is an irreplaceable loss, as it will be very difficult to regain previous positions owing to competition with producers of similar output from other countries who have flooded Russia with their commodities." This was admitted in a conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent by a senior staffer of the republic Cabinet of Ministers.

Estonia

Foreign Minister on Withdrawal Pact Texts

WS1309084694 Tallinn BNS in English 1206 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Tallinn, Sep 12, BNS—Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik claims there's nothing extraordinary in the fact that only Russian-language texts of the Estonian-Russian agreements were signed in Moscow July 26.

"The signing of agreements first in one language and formalization in the other language later is common international practice," Luik told BNS.

The foreign minister said that, for example, only English and French texts of the Estonian-European Union free-trade agreement were signed, but that texts of the accord in the languages of other European Union member states still need to be signed.

"Although Portuguese and Greek texts of the agreement haven't been signed, this doesn't mean the accord cannot be regarded as effective," Luik told BNS.

Estonian President Lennart Meri and the Russian head of state, Boris Yeltsin, signed the agreements on Russia's military withdrawal from Estonia and on social protection of military retirees and their family members on July 26. Although the texts state the agreements were done in both Estonian and Russian, only the Russian-language texts were signed.

Juri Toomepuu, an opposition member of the parliament, claimed that the signing of only the Russian texts of the accords signified Estonia's unconditional capitulation to Russia.

"I've never been conscious of having to attach such importance to linguistic problems," Luik said in a comment to BNS.

Both the Estonian president and his Russian counterpart have by now signed also the Estonian texts of the accords. The signed agreements reached Tallinn last week.

Republicans, Conservatives Form New Party

LD1209163394 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Summary] The Estonian Republican Party and the Conservative Party today united into the Republican Conservative Party. According to their unification agreement, the reason for the merger is their desire to avoid further splits in the right-wing forces in Estonia, and their similarity of world outlook.

According to initial information, the newly-formed party holds 12 seats in the Estonian parliament. A joint congress of the two parties signed the unification agreement and elected a 10-member board with Karin Jaani as chairman.

After the unification congress, Karin Jaani, the new chairman, told our reporter:

[Begin Jaani recording] "The right-wing faction in the Riigikogu has said several times quite openly that we support the government in all the parliamentary initiatives that proceed from the program of the Fatherland Party and the coalition agreement, even though we do not belong to the government coalition. In case the premier happens to hear this, I can say that our aim is not to oust him." [end recording]

Latvia

Gailis Submits Cabinet List to State President

LD1209140394 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Today, the candidate for prime minister, Maris Gailis [MP from the Latvian Way faction], handed to State President Guntis Ulmanis the composition of a new Cabinet of Ministers. I will read it out.

The minister of foreign affairs in the new government will be Valdis Birkavs;
the minister of finance—Andris Piebalgs;
the minister of education and science—Janis Vaivads;
the minister of defence—Janis Trapans;
the minister of economics—Janis Zvanitais;
the minister of internal affairs—Girts Valdis Kristovskis;
the minister of culture—Janis Dripe;
the minister of welfare—Andris Berzins;
the minister of transport—Andris Gutmanis;
the minister of justice—Romans Apsitis;
the minister of state reform—Vita (?Anda) Terauda;
the minister of the environment and regional development—Juris Iesalnieks;
and the minister of agriculture—Arija Udre.
Maris Gailis invited the following to be state ministers:
Gunars Meierovics—the state minister for Baltic and Nordic states;
state ministers at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs—Olgerts Raimonds Pavlovskis and Janis Ritenis;
the state minister for the issues of foreign resources—Indra Salmite;
the state minister for privatization at the Ministry of Economics—Druvis Skulte;
the state minister for power at the Ministry of Economics—Juris Ozolins;
the state minister for health care at the Ministry of Welfare—Normunds Zemvaldis;
the state minister for human rights at the Ministry of Justice—Janis Arvalds Tupesis;
the state minister for environment protection at the Ministry of the Environment and Regional Development—Indulis Emsis;
the state minister for cooperation at the Ministry of Agriculture—Vilnis Edvins Bresis; and the state minister for forestry at the Ministry of Agriculture—Kazimirs Slakota.

The Saeima deputies will be discussing the expression of confidence in the new Cabinet of Ministers at the next plenary session.

Lithuania

Foreign Minister Rules Out New East-West Partition

LD1209133094 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1200 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] I do not think that a new partition of the world is very likely, Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys said in comments published under the title Yalta-2 or Pragmatic Policy published in the 6 September issue of the daily THE WASHINGTON TIMES. It is maintained in the publication that the United States is prepared to hand over the Baltic states into the Russian sphere of influence and that the United States has agreed that Europe ends at the eastern borders of Poland.

The minister substantiated his point of view by saying that the Baltic states in general and Lithuania in particular are actively integrating into the economic and political structures of Europe, and that now it is impossible to separate them from the common European space. Moreover, Povilas Gylys stressed, it is unlikely that Western countries, feeling their responsibility and duty for the reinstatement of justice for the historic mistakes which have been made, would accept the scenario according to which the Baltic states are not in the European sphere of influence. Therefore, it does not make sense to say that Europe ends with the eastern borders of Poland, the minister said. He also stressed that today it is 1994 and not 1940, and the situation is completely different. There is no Hitler in the West and no Stalin in the East.

U.S. Response to Formal Inquiry Noted

WS1309091294 Tallinn BNS in English 1206 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Vilnius, Sep 12, BNS—The United States supports the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, reads the response of the U.S. State Department to an inquiry by the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry. The ministry had asked whether the United States views the Baltic States as coming under Russia's sphere of influence.

The U.S. President, during his visit to Riga, showed it convincingly that the Baltic States should not, are not and will not fall under the sphere of influence of other states, says the answer of the U.S. State Department received by the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry Friday.

The Lithuanian Foreign Ministry addressed the inquiry to the State Department following the publication of an article headlined "Second Yalta or Realistic Policies?" in WASHINGTON TIMES. The article said that high-ranking American politicians have been familiarized with a document drawn up by the U.S. State Department which expresses tolerance to the expansion of Russia's sphere of influence. The reinforcement of Russia's influence, which will include the Baltic States to a certain extent, would be recognized by the United States as long as it does not run counter to Washington's interests and corresponds to the principles of international law, the alleged document says, according to the newspaper.

WASHINGTON TIMES stated that the document recognizes Russian priority in territory stretching to the eastern side of the Polish borderline. However, no mention is made in the text about the future of the three Baltic States, according to the newspaper.

The would-be document allegedly also deals with strategic cooperation between Russia and the United States. WASHINGTON TIMES reports that it recognizes as acceptable to the U.S. Russia's policies based on national interests and principles of force in case they constitute no direct interference with the vital interests of the United States. The article claims that Peter Tarnoff, State Department undersecretary for political affairs, sent the draft document to Secretary of State Warren Christopher in July.

As the publication in the American newspaper came on the eve of the Russian president's visit to the United States, the Lithuanian daily LIETUVOS RYTAS asked Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys to comment on the story.

Gylys admitted that the Washington Times article caused concern in the Foreign Ministry. "We would like it to be made clear - that this is not true and that there is no such division," Gylys said. According to the Lithuanian foreign minister, such a division of the "spheres of influence" is hardly probable. Gylys reminded the newspaper that Western countries support Lithuania's aspiration to integrate with the European Union, therefore a U.S. concession to Russia regarding the "spheres of influence" would make this support illogical.

Gylys expressed his opinion that the mentioned document may be part of U.S. official policy, but did not rule out a possibility that it may have been drawn up by one of the State Department staffers. If the Baltic States became an object for the distribution of "spheres of influence," this would mean a step back to the Cold War, Gylys said. He added that the Baltic States will defend their sovereignty and right "not to give in to any manipulations."

Meanwhile, the response of the U.S. State Department reiterates the United States' position that the Baltic States, as well as the other countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, cannot be treated as secluded corners of bigger states.

Opposition Leader on 'Yalta 2' Document

WS1309110394 Vilnius ELTA in English 1823 GMT 12 Sep 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 585]

[Text] Vilnius, September 12, ELTA—At the press conference organised by the opposition on Monday Vytautas Landsbergis made a statement on "Manifestation of 'Yalta-2' in international politics".

In his statement opposition leader Vytautas Landsbergis commented about the information, published in the "WASHINGTON TIMES" and later distributed in Lithuania, concerning U.S. State Department document, following which Baltic States were due to be given to the Russian sphere of influence.

Landsbergis particularly had in mind the thesis of the document in which United States had stated that the United States considered Russia's foreign policy **with the use of force** as acceptable as long as it did not interfere with the US interests.

Landsbergis compared it to "the conceptual agreement between the two superstates to divide and rule the world."

"Baltic States must have the right to hear something encouraging concerning their eastern borders, and not only about Polish eastern borders, which are already being mentioned in the statements of United States officials", Landsbergis said.

Border Agreement Said Delaying Treaty With Belarus

WS1309110194 Tallinn BNS in English 1532 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Vilnius, Sep 12, BNS—A political treaty between Belarus and Lithuania will not be signed until the two countries agree on borders, the chairman of the Lithuanian parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, Kazys Bobelis, told reporters Monday.

Bobelis said agreement is yet to be reached on three border zones, including the Adutiskis railroad station, which is the main stumbling block in the process of border delimitation. The lawmaker said the Foreign Affairs Committee unanimously agrees that "no one will allow to hand over part of the town of Adutiskis or the station to Belarus."

Bobelis said a proposal to divide the two railroad tracks in Adutiskis is under consideration. The tracks are about ten meters apart and the border could be set between them, he said and added that the Adutiskis station would remain on Lithuanian territory in such case.

Bobelis also pointed out that the committee encountered one more problem while discussing the draft political treaty with Belarus. The lawmaker said Lithuania proposed to set a demilitarized zone that would extend some 30 to 40 kilometers on both sides of the border, however a draft received from Belarus makes no mention of such zone.

Asked whether such a zone would cover Vilnius, which is less than 40 kilometers from the Belarusian border, Bobelis said the territory will have to be determined by mutual consent. But he added that "we can never agree to have Vilnius in a demilitarized zone."

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